

'Opponents shot outside palace'

Marcos regime in its death throes

From David Watts
Manila

The beleaguered Philippines regime of President Marcos appeared to be in its death throes last night, with the President still issuing orders from his palace for attacks on his opponents, even though his authority seemed to be diminishing hourly.

Early today shooting was reported outside the presidential palace, with some opposition supporters said to have been injured.

Late last night the isolated President ordered his Scout Rangers to attack the military camp occupied by troops supporting the Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, and the police chief, General Fidel Ramos. The camp was surrounded by thousands of civilians from the People's Power Movement trying to prevent violence.

In a last-minute television appeal General Ramos tried to get the attack order cancelled and, flanked by 10 deserting officers from the Scout Rangers, called on others to leave and accused Mr Marcos of putting their commander under duress to carry out the operation. Regular updates on troop movements were being made over what used to be the Government television station.

Hong Kong officials have refused to identify a woman and two children who arrived unexpectedly from Manila by air last night and were interviewed by immigration officers (David Bonavia writes from Hong Kong). There is speculation that the group includes

Mrs Lucinda Marcos and one of her adopted children. The Government said, however, that the woman was not related to President Marcos or his ally General Fabian Ver. Hong Kong will let the three stay for seven days. The three crew of the aircraft have asked to return to Manila.

There is any use of weapons against civilians. American military aid will be cut off.

The European Economic Community last night expressed concern at reported troop movements and called on those responsible to avoid the shedding of blood among brothers and sisters. The statement came soon after mortar and machine gun attacks were reported on the Catholic radio station Veritas.

The President had overnight become almost a forgotten man holed up in his palace with his Army chief, Lieutenant Fabian Ver, issuing orders for attacks which can only mean civilian casualties while publicly pretending to try to avoid bloodshed.

Mr Marcos yesterday ordered strafing and mortar attacks on Camp Crame, which contains many civilians. Fortunately servicemen never carried them out. He

also ordered a curfew from 6pm to 6am, which was largely ignored.

In a telephone interview with a television station Mr Marcos called on his loyalists to go to the palace with their guns. "We will show that we have people power, too," the telephone line was constantly cut off for some strange reason.

There were isolated outbreaks of fighting yesterday at the airport where Mr Marcos's Minister of Information, Mr Gregorio Cendana, was said to have been arrested. There was fighting near the palace and during the takeover of the government radio station, which was captured and subsequently stopped broadcasting during a televised speech by the President. Considering the high tension, it was surprising that there were no more outbreaks.

Flights at Manila airport were disrupted after five Sikorsky Blackhawk helicopters from Camp Crame attacked and destroyed five helicopters on the ground at the adjoining Villamor air base.

One of the Blackhawks also fired rockets at the presidential palace.

The helicopters, together with F5 jet fighters, give the Ramos-Enrile faction a distinct military advantage.



The Queen is escorted by an official to a children's show after an egg hit her coat at the start of her visit to Auckland. Full story and photographs, page 32

Tory plan to emphasize private health services

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Leading Conservatives disclosed yesterday that the party was considering a drive to reform the National Health Service, with a greater emphasis on private care and new charges for those able to pay.

The disclosure in planning for the next election manifesto came as Downing Street sources confirmed yesterday's report in *The Times* that a schools voucher system was being considered in an attempt to give parents greater choice in their children's education.

It was also confirmed that the Prime Minister was keen to create a system of direct grant primary schools, particularly in the inner cities.

A senior Whitehall source said that the thinking for the next Parliament was that a voucher system, under which parents would be given credits to the value of a state education which could be spent in the private sector, would help to reintroduce choice, competition and excellence into schools.

The voucher system, now being called credit or access schemes, was last mooted by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Sir Keith Joseph, in 1982 but was dropped a year later.

Senior Conservatives, clearly delighted by the *Times* report, said yesterday that the National Health Service was another target for reform.

It was said that one idea killed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher during the 1979 and 1983 election campaigns, the introduction of boarding charges for well off hospital patients, was being re-examined.

But a range of options are now being considered to increase the privatization of health care. Mr Norman Tebbit, now party chairman, said last November that there were already five million people with private health insurance.

He said then: "The essential of the National Health Service is not so much who provides the service but that the patient

should not be denied treatment because he cannot pay for it."

Mr Tebbit, who is expected to take charge of the next election manifesto, also said at a party conference fringe meeting in 1982: "A natural consequence of higher personal disposable incomes should be a willingness to spend more of one's own income on medical services."

Tax concessions on contributions to private health care cannot be ruled out as part of the package, and it is possible that private management could be introduced to National Health Service hospitals.

Downing Street sources also said yesterday that, in addition to a voucher system and direct grant primary schools for the inner cities, the Prime Minister would like to see business and commerce putting back into society some of their profits, perhaps in the form of school foundations.

The strong drive on Conservative policy will hear the Conservative right wing. But the Conservative "wets" were already preparing their contingency resistance plans and the Opposition parties will try to exploit public fears about the unknown.

Mr Clement Freud, the Liberal spokesman on education, said last night: "By talking about the renaissance of direct grant schools and vouchers the Government is doing a tremendous disservice to the education sector and delivering a substantial insult to the teachers." He said in the number of medical academics had had only a marginal effect on health services, even though 230 posts had been frozen or abolished since 1981, the Government said yesterday in reply to a Commons social services select committee report (our Social Services Correspondent writes).

UGC cuts and Medical Services Report: Follow-up Observations by the Government on the Third Report from the Social Services Committee (Stationery Office: £1.35).

US set to fly out President

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The Reagan Administration, after formally calling on President Marcos to hand over power to a transitional government, was on high alert yesterday monitoring the crisis in the Philippines.

Throughout the day it sent messages to the Marcos Government and to the opposition groups.

There are clear hints here that the US is now making preparations to fly Mr Marcos out of the country if and when he asks.

After a strong pre-dawn statement from the White House, officials here said little about the US efforts to con-

tain and direct the crisis, beyond urging all parties to refrain from violence.

There are clear signs here that no one seriously expects this now to take place.

The State Department spokesman insisted that there was no threat to the US bases from the crisis in the Philippines. He said that the US would do whatever it could to ensure the safety of Mr Marcos and his family.

Mr Philip Habib, the US special envoy, who is understood to have discussed plans for Mr Marcos's departure while in the Philippines, briefed Congress yesterday afternoon.

however that this was a "relatively private affair".

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Kinnock may lift press ban for poll

By Richard Evans
Lobby Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock and Labour's National Executive Committee will come under strong pressure tomorrow to lift the ban on speaking to News International journalists during the Fulham by-election campaign.

The boycott is proving increasingly awkward for senior Labour figures. Yesterday Mr John Prescott, Labour's chief employment spokesman, visited Fulham to support the party's prospective candidate, only to be faced with an embarrassing choice: to answer questions from *The Times* at a publicized press conference or in effect to ruin a meeting arranged to boost the candidate's campaign.

Mr Prescott, who discussed the problem privately with Mr Nick Raynsford, the prospective candidate, declined reluctantly and with evident discomfort to go ahead with the press conference and to answer questions.

"You know the dilemma. You know it as well as I do. The reality is that I am talking, aren't I?" Mr Prescott said.

Although the writ for the Fulham by-election is yet to be moved, campaigning is already under way in the south-west London constituency. Labour, which has in Mr Raynsford a first-class candidate, is hopeful of overcoming a Conservative majority of under 5,000 at the last general election.

But the last thing Mr Raynsford or senior party spokesmen want is their campaign damaged and overshadowed by a refusal to speak to certain journalists. The NEC is thus expected to discuss lifting the ban for future parliamentary by-elections.

Mr Raynsford insisted yesterday that he had a responsibility as a by-election candidate to put over Labour's point of view to all journalists. "And I shall do that."

Pound and shares continue advance

The pound jumped by nearly 2 cents against the dollar yesterday, to \$1.4635, and was gaining further ground in New York last night. The pound's strength and hopes that next month's Budget will bring lower base rates lifted share prices to new highs.

Sterling's rise came despite a drop in North Sea oil prices to less than \$14 a barrel. The pound held steady against the European currencies, and the sterling index rose 0.4 to 74.9.

Last night in New York, the pound was quoted at \$1.4685. Share prices continued their record run. The Financial Times 30-share index closed 19.2 points up at 1,275.2.

Encouraging economic forecasts from the London Business School and the Confederation of British Industry helped fuel share buying.

There are growing hopes that the Budget on March 18 will herald a series of moves towards cheaper money in Britain. Money market interest rates edged down, and some dealers believe that a half-point reduction in base rates from the current 12.5 per cent could take place.

However, most City dealers expect the Chancellor to wait until around Budget day before cutting rates, when a reduction would compensate for what are expected to be only modest tax cuts.

Details, page 17

Tenpenny victory for Fowler

By Philip Webster

The 10p increase in child benefit announced yesterday represented a victory for Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, over the Treasury.

The increase was double what most Conservatives had expected and averted a backbench rebellion.

The Treasury was believed by some MPs to have argued that the change was so small as to be not worthwhile.

Mr Nigel Forman, MP for Carshalton and Wallington, said the married man's tax allowance had been increased by 17 per cent in real terms, while child benefit, before yesterday's announcement, had decreased by 3 per cent in real terms.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's chief spokesman on social security, described the child benefit increase as "piffling".

Mr Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Erdington, said that the 40p-a-week increase for a single person's pension would purchase about six eggs.

Tougher rules, page 2

Heritage finance flaw

The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission said yesterday that it had been forced to revise and tighten its financial procedures after the disclosure of irregularities within its marketing division.

The commission, which is also known as English Heritage, was established in April 1984 to take over the historic buildings responsibilities of the Department of the Environment.

It has a budget from the Exchequer this year of £63 million.

The commission said that reports of overspending were based on material from its own internal auditors' report. Twelve separate audits had been carried out last year, and the marketing division was the only area in which significant weaknesses had been discovered.

Details, page 17

Tass jeers at Reagan arms reply

From Christopher Walker
Moscow

Tass yesterday issued a scathing dismissal of President Reagan's response to the Soviet Union's sweeping proposals for eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2,000, which were first announced by Mr Gorbachev more than five weeks ago.

In a report from Washington, the agency stated: "The reply, which constitutes a propaganda strategy designed to justify Washington's unwillingness to take real steps along the lines of reducing the world's threat of nuclear annihilation, also pursues the aim of diverting attention from the Soviet proposals and of justifying the US Administration's course towards further spiralling arms race."

The US counter-proposals, contained in a personal letter from President Reagan delivered to the Foreign Ministry here on Sunday, were also attacked on Soviet television by a leading commentator, Boris Kalyagin, who said they contained "practically nothing of a constructive character".

In its report, Tass complained about the limited scope of the US reply, which it said referred only to medium-range missiles and did not touch on the question of strategic arms.

The formal Soviet response is expected to be sent out later today, when Mr Gorbachev delivers his keynote address to the opening session of the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party.

Britain backs US, page 7

Head teachers to close schools

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Head teachers in England and Wales have voted to close schools at lunchtime for up to a week in support of their campaign for new arrangements for supervising children at midday.

Such action would be the first that head teachers have taken nationally, and the shutdown will take place before March 14. It is likely in the first instance to amount to a one-day closure of all schools at lunchtime.

A ballot by the National Association of Head Teachers of its 20,000 members found majorities in favour of closing schools at lunchtime for just one day, one day a week, and for one whole week. But the majority for a week-long closure was very small: 50.48 per cent.

The association wants a national scheme with teachers working as senior supervisors and being paid £8 an hour. It also wants head teachers to be paid for looking after pupils at lunchtime.

Head teachers will be advised rather than instructed to close their schools.

The Government had for too long been relying on heads to "pull the fat out of the fire" over a collapsing supervision system, but headteachers had now had enough. "If the Government wants a school meals service and wants children supervised properly at midday, then they have got to pay for it," he said.

The association estimates that a national scheme, including teachers supervising at lunchtime, would cost £14 million.

Merger plan, page 2

Chambers 'divided' over Hailsham

By Frances Gibbs
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The double-edged job of representing the Lord Chancellor in the forthcoming legal action against the Bar has fallen to Mr Nicholas Phillips, QC, in whose name the legal proceedings, in which Lord Hailsham is accused of acting illegally, are being brought.

Least there should be fears that the whole matter could be sewn up "in house" his clerk said yesterday that steps have been taken "to ensure absolute confidentiality to both sides".

In fact, the chambers are split between a number of buildings and just to make sure another clerk has been appointed for Mr Phillips.

Mr Phillips, chairman of the governors of Bryanston School, came to prominence recently as chairman of the committee which recommended radical proposals for streamlining the work of the commercial court. They will be debated by commercial lawyers and judges at a special meeting chaired by the Master of the Rolls tonight.

The Lord Chancellor also faces legal proceedings from the Law Society over his decision to limit the rise for

End of the line

Do the caring professions have the right attitude to attempted suicides?

Sci-fi hi-fi

Compact discs: the slow revolution

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio daily competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Dr Eric Cole of Darlington. Portfolio list, page 28; how to play, information service, page 32.

Tebbit tells of bombing pains

Mr Norman Tebbit has described how he uses work to dull the pain and the memories of the Brighton bombing 18 months ago which left his wife almost totally paralysed.

Page 3

Red carpet

Two delegates from the Labour Party will be among others from left-wing European parties granted equal status with foreign Communists as guests at the 27th Soviet party congress opening in Moscow today.

Page 8

New BL clash

Mr Edward Heath accused Mr Norman Tebbit, Conservative Party chairman, of being behind the attack on his speech opposing a General Motors takeover of BL.

Page 2

Data date

The offices of the Data Protection Registrar, where people can discover what information companies have stored about them on computers, opened yesterday.

Page 2

Eight changes

After the debacle of Murrayfield, England have made eight changes and introduced two new caps. Clough and Richards, for the game against Ireland at Twickenham on Saturday.

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Tougher rules on payments accompany benefit rises

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

Pensions and other social security benefits are to rise by 1.1 per cent in July, with an extra 5p for child benefit taking the weekly payments to £7.10p.

But at the same time the Government is proposing much tougher rules on single payments for items such as furniture, cookers and clothing for those on supplementary benefit. The rules are aimed at cutting by about £80 million a year the steeply rising bill for single payments.

The pension and other increases come as the Government is moving the annual updating date for benefit increases from November to April by having an increase in July followed by one in April next year.

The rises take a single person's pension up by 40p to £38.70 and the pension for a couple up by 55p to £61.30. Child benefit, which on the formula used would have risen by only 5p after the 1.1 per cent rise in inflation between last May and January, is to go up by 10p, restoring 5p of the 35p cut in its real value that was made last November.

Those on supplementary benefit lose marginally because their increase will be only 1.1 per cent instead of the 1.2 per cent they should have received after housing costs were taken into account.

That, and a decision not to increase the extra weekly payments made to people on supplementary benefit, with the exception of a 10p rise in the higher rate of heating addition for the very old, the severely disabled and those with homes that are hard to heat, will save £19 million in a full year.

With changes in housing benefit rules and payments to those aged 21 to 34, another £12 million a year will be saved.

That saving of £31 million is offset by the £25 million being spent on raising child benefit by 10p instead of 5p. The most controversial changes, however, are the proposed restrictions on single

payments for items such as furniture.

Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Social Security, said such one-off payments had risen from under one million in 1981 to more than four million last year, the cost rising from £45 million a year to more than £300 million.

There was some evidence of fraud and abuse, he said, with people claiming that large quantities of clothing had been stolen or damaged in laundrettes; take-up campaigns by local authorities had helped to raise the bill.

Under the Government's proposals, which have been sent to the Social Security Advisory Committee for comment, people in general will no longer be able to claim for furniture, cookers, washing machines or other expensive household items unless they have recently moved house for a good reason.

National standard sums will be fixed for the items that can be provided—for example, £150 for a cooker or £65 for a single bed. In addition, present rules that allow people to claim for all sorts of minor items from iron to hot water bottles will be replaced by a single £25 sum to cover all such items.

Bedding will be available only to those with good reason to move, or to the elderly, sick and disabled.

● The London Borough of Camden claimed in the High Court yesterday that the new bed and breakfast regulations are costing its ratepayers £30,000 a week.

It is asking Mr Justice McPherson to rule the regulations unlawful and award the council damages.

Mr Richard Drabble, for the council, said Camden was under a duty to provide accommodation for the homeless and those in need. But the maximum fixed by the regulations was unreasonably low.

He claimed that the minister erred when he put the regulations before Parliament by publishing details of the regulations separately.

The hearing continues.

Editors seek race legislation safeguards

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office is to consider redrafting proposals under the Public Order Bill after newspaper editors expressed concern that they will be at risk of prosecution over articles on racism.

The Guild of British Newspaper Editors protested that they could be prosecuted for possessing solicited or unsolicited material of a racially inflammatory nature which had been kept either for their records or for articles.

The Bill extends the offence of incitement to racial hatred to the publication or distribution of material likely or intended to stir up racial hatred.

The editors were concerned that the Bill contained no safeguard, as did the offence of incitement to racial hatred

under the Race Relations Act, 1976, which included the qualifying phrase, "having regard to all the circumstances".

Home Office officials said they were "exploring the possibility of returning to something rather closer" to the original phrasing.

No change of policy was intended in the redrafting, nor would the Press be placed in a different position. Under the Public Order Bill, the courts would have to consider any possible offence in the context of the publication as a whole.

In a letter to the guild, the Home Office said: "We are anxious not to give the impression, however wrongly, that all the surrounding circumstances cannot be taken into account."

Mirror's management crisis

By Michael Horswell

The Scottish *Daily Record* is not expected to appear today after the crisis at Mirror Group Newspapers deepened yesterday, threatening more than 700 jobs.

The suspension of the newspaper was ordered on Sunday by the MGN publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell, after journalists and print workers refused to work on a new colour Irish edition of the *Daily Mirror* at the group's Anderson Quay plant in Glasgow.

Presses were closed down by the management to prevent the normal print run of 750,000 and production of the *Daily Mirror*'s Irish edition switched to Manchester.

Police were on duty outside the Glasgow plant. Both Sogat and the National Union of Journalists said they wanted to work normally.

Mr Maxwell's plans to produce the colour Irish edition of the *Daily Mirror* in Glasgow involved the electronic transmission of pages from London. The NUJ and Sogat fear a loss of the Scottish identity of the *Daily Record*, Scotland's biggest-selling daily newspaper.

A spokesman for MGN in London said last night: "Our situation is that staff are still deemed to have dismissed themselves." Mr Maxwell has said there was gross overmanning at Anderson Quay. An agreement was struck this month by which the print unions accepted more work should come out of the plant.

It was agreed that a new colour newspaper for the far north of England would be produced.

But last week after it was announced that News Interna-



Spitfire pilots relived old battles yesterday as they began celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the aircraft which became the symbol of British defiance of the Luftwaffe during the Second World War. Fifteen men who flew the aircraft then met at the RAF Club in London. The anniversary is on March 5, with fly-pasts over London and

Eastleigh, Hampshire, where the aircraft was first built, and yesterday's gathering was the first of many praising the aircraft. Mr Jeffrey O'Neil, who flew the first Spitfire in 1936 and became chief test pilot, said: "The Spitfire had the edge over other aircraft." Group Captain Hugh "Cocky" Dundas was shot down twice, but recorded 10-12 hits of his own. "If

anything ever went wrong with the aircraft, it was my fault, not the Spitfire's," he said. Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling added that "you felt part of the aircraft". At the get-together (front row, from left) are Group Captain Laddie Lucas, Wing Commander Paddy Barthropp, Air Chief Marshal Sir Harry Broadhurst, Mr O'Neil, Group Captain Duncan Smith and

Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler; (back row, from left) Air Commodore Peter Brothers, Wing Commander Geoffrey Page, Captain George Baldwin, Air Commodore Al Deere, Group Captain Brian Kingcome, Captain "Winkle" Brown, Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling and Group Captain "Cats Eyes" Cunningham. (Photograph: John Manning).

Hurd says no reform for police

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Proposed reforms of police disciplinary measures were rejected by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, at a meeting with Mr Christopher Smith, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, yesterday.

Fear of the five alleged victims of an assault, with which four policemen were charged on Sunday, were also due to meet Mr Hurd yesterday, but it was thought inappropriate in the circumstances.

Mr Smith said Mr Hurd refused to consider a review of police disciplinary measures. "I was disappointed at his reluctance to consider the system of discipline and complaint."

He said the Home Secretary also refused his request to make the Police Complaints Authority, which uses police officers to carry out investigations, fully independent. Mr Hurd ruled out any change in the nature of the evidence needed before any disciplinary action could be taken.

Mr Smith said he wanted Mr Hurd to consider changing the test of the evidence needed for disciplinary measures, but not criminal prosecutions, from "beyond reasonable doubt" to "a balance of probabilities".

The four policemen have been charged with conspiracy to assault five youths outside a pub in Holloway, north London.

Their arrest came two days after Sir Kenneth Newman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, announced a new inquiry into the alleged attack.

Police Constables Michael John Gavin and Michael John Parr, both aged 27, and Police Constables Edward Napier-Main and Nicholas John Wise, both aged 26, have been bailed and suspended from duty. They will appear before Bow Street magistrates on March 11.

UK 'outpacing Germany'

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

The United Kingdom's manufacturing productivity is outpacing that of France and West Germany, the Prime Minister said last night.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher said in a lengthy Commons reply on her achievements since 1979: "Manufacturing productivity has risen at an average annual rate of 6 per cent for the last five years, higher than France or Germany, and company profitability is at its highest for two decades."

She said: "The rate of inflation is almost half the level the government inherited, with further falls in prospect."

"The United Kingdom is in its fifth successive year of growth with gross domestic product at an all-time high; and output is expected to have grown faster in 1985 than all other European Community countries and the United States."

Among other achievements listed:

● Employment rising with around 700,000 more people in work since March 1983;

● Income tax thresholds raised by about 20 per cent in real terms;

● Twelve leading companies privatized, with a target of 40 per cent of the state-owned industrial sector privatized by the end of the Parliament;

● Pay, price and dividend controls abolished along with controls on foreign exchange, bank lending, hire purchase, industrial and office development;

● Productivity per person in agriculture improved by more than 40 per cent;

● Spending on major roads increased by 30 per cent and more than 500 miles of motorways and trunk roads completed;

● Total manpower in the police service in Great Britain up by 17,000 and expenditure

in England and Wales up by one third in real terms.

● Retirement pension at record level in real terms.

● Spending on the health service up by 21 per cent in real terms.

● More than a million trained on the Youth Training Scheme since its 1983 introduction;

● Abolition of the Greater London Council and metropolitan county councils from the end of next month;

● An increase of 2.25 million in the number of homeowners, owner occupation now at 62 per cent, and the proportion of young people owning their own home the highest in Europe.

Mrs Thatcher also said that legislation had been passed "extending the rights of members of trades unions to influence the affairs of their unions and to restore the balance in industrial relations between managements and unions".

Heath in new BL storm

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Mr Edward Heath was at the centre of a new storm over the BL sale yesterday when he accused Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, of being behind criticism of his speech on Sunday opposing a takeover by General Motors of the United States.

The allegation came after some figures in the Conservative Group for Europe attacked Mr Heath for using their platform to criticize government policy over BL.

An organizer by the Press Association news agency said that members were none too pleased that Mr Heath, the group's president, had used the occasion to issue a "tirade" against the Government.

Mr Tony Baldry, Conservative MP for Banbury, chairman of the session at which Mr Heath spoke, said: "Mr Heath's speech was received in fairly stormy silence."

Mr Ian Taylor, chairman of the group, said that Mr Heath had been "rather naughty". He said: "He was there to discuss the position of the centre-right parties in Europe in what should have been a very constructive weekend."

But members of Mr Heath's staff who were at the conference said that he was loudly applauded and that many people present had expressed support for his views afterwards.

A statement from Mr Heath's office added: "If Mr Tebbit wishes to dispute Mr Heath's view he should do so openly and in public rather than attempt to use members of his staff, including his secretary who holds a position in the Conservative Group for Europe, to do his dirty work for him."

Miss Beryl Goldsmith, Mr Tebbit's secretary, is a former chairman of the group. She said last night that she did not intend to reply to what was a "near libellous statement".

Mr Tebbit was said last night to be taken aback at what Mr Heath had alleged about his involvement.

● Land Rover workers yesterday rejected any takeover of their company, and said they wanted it to remain British.

The 8,500 men who produce Land Rovers and 1,700 who make Sherpa vans held lunchtime meetings. Mr Joe Harris, union convener, said it was clear from the meetings that the men not only opposed a sale to GM, but any sale.

MPs look at ethnic job plight

By Patricia Clough

A delegation from the Commons select committee on employment yesterday gained a further insight into black unemployment on a visit to the Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham, north London, where a policeman was killed in riots last year.

The committee heard evidence of discrimination that prevented black people getting jobs and homes, and questioned a local Job Centre manager who admitted he had never been required to read the Commission for Racial Equality's code of practice.

They also met a personnel manager from a big local company who attempted to explain why 82.5 per cent of his staff are white in an area where more than 50 per cent of residents are black or of other ethnic origin.

The five-member delegation was on the second stage of its inquiry into racial and other discrimination in employment, prompted by repeated inner city riots.

There are about 18,000 unemployed people, or 14 per cent of the population, in the Tottenham and Wood Green areas of north London.

Miss Ros Cave, employment chairman of Haringey Borough Council, said a series of positive steps had been taken to combat discrimination on council staff where white males made up 80 per cent of the workforce but only 25 per cent of the borough population.

Left plea on purge of Militant

By Our Political Correspondent

Labour's left wing yesterday urged the National Executive Committee to take a stand against any witch-hunt or purge of Liverpool's Militant leadership.

A resolution tabled by Mr Eric Heffer, Mr Tony Benn, Mr Dennis Skinner, Miss Jo Richardson and Miss Joan Maynard said: "We urge all party members to stop any witch-hunts."

It is expected that a majority of the executive tomorrow will side with Mr Neil Kinnock in favour of exemplary action being taken against Mr Derek Hatton, the deputy leader of Liverpool Council, and about 10 other leading Militants in the city.

They will also act to disband and reorganise the Liverpool district party, which has become the Militant power base.

But last night's resolution illustrated the strength of the left-wing backlash which is bound to be provoked by disciplinary action.

Any expulsions will have to follow a further meeting of the executive, next month, to hear answers to the charges from those identified as Militants in an inquiry report.

Those expelled will also have a right of appeal to the full party conference.

The fight back is expected to begin with a mass demonstration and lobby of the executive for tomorrow's meeting at party headquarters in south London.

Bernini bust may be saved for nation

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

The Bernini bust, on sale as the world's most expensive piece of sculpture, is likely to be one of the first items to be saved for the nation by the Government's decision last week to give an extra £10.5 million to the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

The Victoria and Albert Museum recently failed to raise the £3 million private sale price to buy the bust from the Castle Howard estate, which is selling it to cover taxes after the death of Lord Howard, the former chairman of the BBC. The museum was unable to raise sufficient money to meet the estate's price, which is several million pounds below what the bust could achieve on the open market.

The heritage fund has not earmarked any of the £10.5 million for any specific purchase, but it is expected that assistance towards the purchase of the bust for a British institution will be considered. There is speculation that the V&A may revive its bid to take advantage of the new funding.

Derby death trio cleared

A detective sergeant, his father-in-law and another man were cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of the manslaughter of a postal worker in a fight on a bus near the Ascot winning post on Derby Day in June 1984.

Judge Thomas Pigot, the Common Sergeant of London, ruled there was no evidence that Detective Sergeant Robert Miles, aged 26, his father-in-law, Mr Raymond Hudson, aged 44, and Mr Michael Clothier, aged 47, all of Cobham, Surrey, had taken part in an attack on Mr Peter Albury, aged 42, of Sutton, Surrey.

Cannabis fine

Jenny Woodward, aged 31, leader of the campaign to oust Mr Ray Honeyford, headmaster at the centre of an ethnic education controversy, was fined £50 by city magistrates yesterday for growing cannabis at her home in St Paul's Road, Bradford.

Fire deaths

Three young children aged eight months, three years, and five years, died yesterday when fire swept through their terrace home in Burnley, Lancashire. Their parents, Mr Javid Khalid and his wife Sanina were taken to hospital with shock.

Strike at pit

A strike call by NUM officials at Bevercotes colliery near Retford, Nottinghamshire, yesterday in protest at the dismissal of the union's branch secretary at the pit was obeyed by 170 out of the 400 miners on the underground day shift.

Foodhalls end

Nine Debenhams department stores will close their foodhalls next month with the loss of 360 jobs. The owners, the Burton group, said there would be opportunities for redeployment but redundancies were inevitable. The space will be used for fashion goods.

£1,000 rat

Roberto Bersini, aged 31, an Italian lorry driver who brought his pet white rat into Britain, was fined £1,000 by Middleton magistrates in Greater Manchester yesterday after admitting breaking anti-rabies laws.

Penny rise

A penny increase in pocket money in line with inflation is being recommended for children aged up to four in the care of Staffordshire County Council. The children will now get 34p a week.

Theft charges

Chief Inspector Gavin O'Brien, aged 35, a member of the headquarters staff of Sussex Police and in charge of the force's reorganization unit, will appear before Worthing magistrates on March 12 on two charges of theft.

Boys admitted

The Princess of Wales' former boarding school, Riddlesworth Hall, at Stifford, Norfolk, will admit boys aged five to seven for the first time in September.

Correction

The Independent Broadcasting Authority points out that it will be considering alternative daytime scheduling proposals for the Thames Television programme *Someone to Talk To* (The Times, February 21).

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كندا من الأصل

Tebbit tells how work eases pain caused by the Brighton bombing

Mr Norman Tebbit has described how he uses work to ease the worst pain, 18 months after the IRA Brighton bombing which left his wife, Margaret, almost totally paralysed.

"It is better than alcohol. Through work you can avoid that tendency to brood about what might have been, or how hard life has been on you," Mr Tebbit said, recalling the bomb blast which left him buried in the ruins of a hotel for four hours.

The Tebbits' lives had had to adjust drastically in the past year, he said in an interview in *Women's Own* magazine.

"Going away for a weekend is a bit like organizing the D-Day landings, with a nurse, a wheelchair and all the gear."

Together they were sharing the hardships and daily hope.

"We continue to hope, and there is some improvement. My wife can now turn over the

pages of a newspaper, which is really something."

Mr Tebbit said that waiting to be dug out of the debris after the blast had not been a "deeply moving spiritual experience". He said: "I do not talk about it a lot because it does seem slightly boring."

"I realized, once the lads had begun to dig us out, that I would survive, though I think there was a limit to how long one could have remained in that state."

"Then, of course, I was told that my wife was paralysed, and at the time we had no idea whether it was total or partial."

But the Brighton bombing was not something which dominated his life. "I do not wake up in the night, or dream about it. I would have been through one or two odd experiences anyway in my flying days."

Mr Tebbit said he was especially moved by his wife's courage, "because the paralysis had not come about through an accident but a deliberate attempt to murder members of the Government."

While Mrs Tebbit continues to make some progress at Stannmore hospital, Middlesex, he has moved out of their tower-block flat to a confidential address. He visits her every weekend.

Through his wife's ordeal and confinement to a wheelchair, Mr Tebbit said he had become aware of the enormous courage and instinct for survival shown by patients with spinal injuries. He found his own therapy through working until midnight most days, but his wife and other patients, facing a far more restricted life, showed great courage.

Professor criticized by Savage for attacks

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services
Correspondent

Mrs Wendy Savage yesterday accused her head of department, Professor Geddis Grudzinski, of making a "mountain out of a molehill" in his complaints about her handling of a case of child birth which other specialists have described as bizarre.

Her comments came in cross-examination by Mr Ian Kennedy, QC, for Tower Hamlets Health Authority, during the inquiry into her professional competence.

Mr Kennedy asked her if she felt the professor's criticism was carrying. He also asked her if she thought that all five cases over which she has been accused of professional incompetence were a storm in a teacup.

In the case of a Bengali woman who was in labour for 12 hours and whose baby died eight days after birth, Mrs Savage said it was "maybe a mountain out of a molehill".

Expert witnesses have said they think it likely that the baby died as a result of the labour or delivery, although there was no post-mortem examination to establish the cause of death; Mrs Savage has said she believed it died from a rare blood disorder.

The baby appeared well at birth, she has told the inquiry.

Mr Kennedy asked her if the other cases could properly be described as "a storm in a teacup".

Mrs Savage said that, although there might be differences of opinion over how the cases were managed, "that is really the extent of the disagreement". She added that her professor's reactions towards differences of clinical opinion were "excessive".

The hearing continues.



A witty spring hat was Princess Anne's fashion headline yesterday. Captain Mark Phillips' favourite flat cap was given stylish treatment by royal milliner John Boyd. He added a velvet snood - more often seen in the dressage class to tidy up long hair under a bowler. When Princess Anne turned her back at the British Equestrian Trade Association's trade fair at Sandown, onlookers caught sight of the stencilled Gower, applied in velvet on the back of the crown. The hat topped a tailored, stand-collared coat. (Photographs: John Voss)

'Lecturer hid girl's bones in coffee jar'

Samson Perera, a dental lecturer, killed his adopted daughter aged 13 and hid her dismembered bones in 10 different places, a Leeds Crown Court was told yesterday.

At his laboratory, a colleague discovered human bones in a coffee jar and heater and a stainless steel dish with bones soaking in a liquid to dissolve them, it was alleged.

Later pieces of a skull and facial bones were found in an envelope in Mr Perera's drawer.

When detectives searched his house they found more bones and flesh in three plant pots and a bloodstained hold-all bag, the court was told.

But Mr Perera insisted the bones were not those of his adopted daughter.

Mr Perera, aged 43 and the father of two children, of Stillwell Drive, Sandal, Wakefield, denies murdering Nilanthi, whom he adopted and brought to England in 1981. He also denies obstructing a coroner in the execution of his duties.

His wife Dammika, aged 37, a mathematics teacher, denies assisting her husband and impeding his arrest. She also denies obstructing a coroner.

Mr Humphrey Potts, QC, for the prosecution, said that by July 1984 neighbours were suspicious because the girl was not seen.

When detectives questioned Mr Perera he said he had taken her to his brother in Sicily who would then help her to return home to Sri Lanka where she was born.

As suspicions increased, a lecturer at Leeds University's school of dentistry discovered the bones and skull pieces in the laboratory where Mr Perera worked, Mr Potts said. The hearing continues today.

Satan trial: man 'was living off women'

The country rector in "Satan conman" trial claimed yesterday that Def S Mainwaring Knight, a rector producer, had told him he lived off the earnings of prostitutes for about a 45s while Christians were giving him thousands of pounds.

The Rev John Baker, Pres of Newick, East Sussex, told Maidstone Crown Court that Mr Knight also claimed that he had paid about £200,000 into an off-shore investment company run by fringe satanists.

But Mr Baker said he had taken a Bible oath not to reveal details of the case.

Mr Baker was continuing his evidence in the case which Mr Knight has derided as charges of obtaining £203,850 by deception.

Mr Knight has said he needed the money to pay a satanic insignia, but later alleged that he spent it inside a on his girl friends and prostitutes, fast cars and high living.

Cross-examined by Mr Michael West, QC, for the defence, Mr Baker told the court that he was not surprised to find after committing himself to Christ Mr Knight underwent "backsliding" towards prelates and high living.

"People who have a deep involvement in the occult don't normally get out in sunshine, neat jump-the-deli-ance is a process," he said.

He denied the prosecution claim that he was a gullible fool.

Mr Baker added that he had been successful in the past helping people to free themselves from the control of Devil.

He said the destruction of satanic insignia was a positive means of weakening Devil's control. One met was by using sea water.

The trial continues today.

Cathedral closes shop on Sundays

By Peter Evans and Robin Young

Canterbury Cathedral gift shop is close on Sundays for the time being after accusations by the Consumers' Association that the dean and chapter appeared to be guilty of criminal offences.

"As the present discussions on Sunday trading suggest that the sale of certain individual items is technically illegal, we have naturally reviewed the situation," a cathedral spokesman said yesterday in a statement.

Mr David Tench, the Consumers' Association legal officer, last week listed items on sale in the cathedral shop on Sundays, alleging that none of them fell within the exemptions in Schedule 5 of the Shops Act, 1950.

Mr Tench was speaking at a Home Office seminar arguing in favour of the Shops Bill, which is due for its third reading in the House of Lords today.

MPs campaigning against the Bill met yesterday to discuss their tactics to fight the government move.

The cathedral said that for many years it had "offered a

Girl held in jail for milk theft

A High Court judge will be asked today to free a homeless girl aged 17 who has spent 12 days in Holloway prison, north London, after admitting that she stole a bottle of milk from a Dover doorstep.

Katherine Griffiths was remanded in custody for three weeks by magistrates at Dover, Kent, on February 13, for social reports after admitting her first offence.

Her solicitor, Mr Brian James, said last night that she had served half a day in prison for every penny of the milk stolen.

Sergeant Brian Easton, of Maidstone police headquarters in Kent, said that the police will not oppose bail.

He said they would have preferred bail to have been granted in the first instance, but she was remanded in custody because she had no fixed address and could not satisfy bail requirements.

She was arrested on February 12 and appeared in court the next day when she admitted stealing the milk and apologized to the court.

Pensioner hid drugs to see son

Anne Dempsey, aged 77, let her son store thousands of pounds worth of drugs in her kitchen cupboard for 10 years, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. It was the only way she could get him to visit her.

When drugs squad officers raided her home in west London they found cocaine and cannabis with a street value of £35,000 hidden by her son.

Yesterday she pleaded guilty to possession of the drugs on February 22 last year.

Her son, Andrew, aged 39, admitted supplying the cocaine and cannabis.

Judge Robert Lyndberg decided she had never gained anything from the drugs "apart from visits from the son she would not otherwise have seen".

He put her on probation for 12 months after hearing that it would help her and give her someone to talk to. "She is completely alone in the world," her counsel, Mr Nicholas Gardiner, told the court.

Mr John Rezkien, for the prosecution, said drug squad officers were suspecting him of drug dealing, and saw him visit an address in Pinnerston Road, Acton. On forcing an entry, they found Mrs Dempsey there alone.

Andrew Dempsey, of the Bungalow, Lonsdale Road, Notting Hill, will be sentenced at a later date.

Hoteliers accused of overcharging

By Cliff Feltham

Britain's hoteliers yesterday denied claims that they are greedy and overcharge.

Mr Robin Lees, chief executive of the British Hotels, Restaurants and Caterers Association, said: "I have not seen any signs that prices are being jacked up."

Japanese, West German and some British tour operators have complained.

Mr Seishi Ishida, of Miki Travel, said the average Japanese tourist spent only 1.5 nights in London.

"What makes Japanese tourists rush through London? It is the frustration at the cost of accommodation which has rocketed way above the world average," he said.

Mr Gunther Thamm, director of German tourist facilities handling 50,000 visitors a year, said: "Apart from the de-

lux hotels, the standard of London hotels is very poor indeed."

Mr Steve Price, managing director of Rainbow Hotels, said: "London has a bad image for being rip-offville."

Examples of hotel prices include a twin room at the Dorchester in Park Lane at £140 a night without breakfast. The cost at the Intercontinental is £141.

The prices were defended by Mr Lees. "Big hotels should not charge Paris prices if they are not as good but I believe we are offering facilities just as good as in Paris or other major cities."

The Best Western marketing group, which books visitors into 190 hotels throughout the country, said: "We have seen no sign of hoteliers forcing up prices."

The reason for the shortfall in blood in London is put on bad weather which has prevented donors from attending clinics.

Mr Martina said: "We are having to spend money we can ill afford later this week to advertise that we are extending the opening hours of our clinic in the West End to attract more donors."

The North London Blood Transfusion Centre, which serves a population of 3.5 million, needs 800 pints a day.

Mr Tony Martina, regional organizer, says its two clinics in Edgware and in the West End are about 15 per cent down.

Existing donors are being asked to persuade friends and relatives to come forward before hospitals are forced to cancel operations.

The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in London said last night: "We understand a special effort is being made to help us but we know some hospitals are facing difficulties."

The society estimated swan deaths from lead poisoning at between 3,300 and 4,100 a year. Anglers dispute the figures, and the National Association of Specialist Anglers asked who had seen all the birds that die from lead poisoning. "Anglers do not see them, and who spends more time by the water?"

Fines will protect swans

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Government yesterday threatened fines of up to £2,000 against shopkeepers who go on selling lead fishermen's weights that poison swans.

Mr William Waldegrave, a minister of state at the Department of the Environment, made clear that the Government was determined to cut through years of argument between anglers and naturalists about the effect of lead. He added, however: "The police are not going to break into your home to see if there is lead shot under your bed."

The weights come in several sizes similar to those of shotgun pellets, but split across so that a fishing line can be passed through the slit. Be-

cause the metal is soft the weight can be clamped over the line. Naturalists say too many weights drop off and lie on stream beds.

They claim that the national wild population of about 20,000 swans suffers most from the subsequent lead poisoning. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday that research at Oxford University and elsewhere had shown that a large proportion of swans found dead had been killed by lead poisoning.

The society estimated swan deaths from lead poisoning at between 3,300 and 4,100 a year. Anglers dispute the figures, and the National Association of Specialist Anglers asked who had seen all the birds that die from lead poisoning. "Anglers do not see them, and who spends more time by the water?"

Mr Waldegrave made his statement in an interview to be published tomorrow in *Angler's Mail*. He made clear that the coarse fishing season that will start in less than three weeks will be a test of the willingness of anglers to change from their familiar lead weights to alternatives made from other metals.

The Government, he said, would intervene with laws banning the import and sale of lead weights next year if voluntary curbs did not work.

N.I.

contributions.

Prepare yourself for the April 6 changes.

Every tax year, National Insurance contributions are changed in line with increased social security benefits. Here are the changes effective April 6, 1986.

Employees and Employers (Class 1)
Percentage rates will be unchanged, but the lower and upper earnings limits will rise to £38 and £285 per week. The earnings brackets will also change.

	Employee	Employer
Employment (total weekly earnings (plus monthly or quarterly earnings))	£38.00 to £59.99 £60.00 to £74.99 £75.00 to £285.00	£38.00 to £59.99 £60.00 to £74.99 £75.00 to £285.00 £286.00 or more
Not contracted-out (plus 10% on all earnings)	5% 7% 9%	5% 7% 9% 10.45%
Contracted-out (plus 10% on all earnings)	5% 7% 9%	5% 7% 9% 10.45%

* Employees pay the not contracted-out rate on earnings above £285 per week for employees who are contracted-out. There is no upper earnings limit for employers' contributions.

New contribution tables are being sent to employers together with leaflet NI208 giving the contribution rates, and a new supplement to leaflet NI15, *Employer's Guide to National Insurance Contributions*, and SSP55, *SSP Rates and Notes*.

If you haven't received them by 17 March contact:

- Your social security office for Not contracted-out tables (CF391).
- Contracted-out Employments Group, DHSS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE98 1TX for Contracted-out tables (CF392).

Do not use the present blue tables for earnings after 5 April. The new tables, for use from 6 April, will be red.

Self-employed (Class 2 and 4)
Class 2 contributions will go up

to £3.75 a week from 6 April. If you expect your earnings in 1986/87 to be less than £2,075 you may be able to get an exception from liability. Ask at your social security office for leaflet NI.27A. People with small earnings from self-employment. Class 4 contributions will stay at the same rate: 6.3 per cent of profits between the lower and upper limits which are £4,450 and £14,820 for 1986/87.

Voluntary contributions (Class 3)
Class 3 contributions will go up to £3.65 from 6 April.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
From 6 April 1986 Class 3 contributions paid after the end of the second tax year following the year in which they were payable will normally have to be paid at a higher rate.

Contributions payable for weeks in the tax year ending 5 April 1984 will be the first to be affected by these rules.

Full details of contribution changes
See leaflet NI.208, April 1986 edition, available at post offices and social security offices.

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)
New rates from 6 April 1986 - 5 April 1987 are:

Average weekly earnings	SSP week 1, rate
£74.50 or more	£4.75 (standard)
£55.50 to £74.49	£3.20 (middle)
£38.00 to £55.49	£2.10 (lower)
less than £38.00	NIL - employees not eligible for SSP

SSP Compensation for employers N.I. contributions
The rate of compensation from 6 April will be 8%.

For further information see leaflet NI.227, *Employer's Guide to Statutory Sick Pay*, and SSP55, *SSP Rates and Notes* which is being sent out with the new contribution tables.

The French elections

Fabius raises spectre of constitutional instability

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Three weeks before the general election in France, M. Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, has given the campaign a new twist by seeking to frighten the traditionally leftist voters with the spectre of probable constitutional chaos, should they decide to elect a right-wing government to "cohabit" with a left-wing President.

Speaking on television on the eve of yesterday's opening of the official election campaign, M. Fabius said: "If you've got a President who is shooting off in one direction, and a government which is shooting off in another, it cannot work. There is no certainty that it will not work, but there is a great risk of disorder and I do not want my country to run that risk."

Although M. Fabius has spoken in the past of the "mess" that would be created if the right came to power, on the grounds of the divisions within the right-wing parties and the alleged inapplicability of its programme, it is the first time he has suggested that cohabitation would in itself lead to an impossible situation for France.

He admitted that in adopting that position he was in agreement with M. Raymond Barre, the only one of the opposition leaders to have insisted that cohabitation will not work, but said he totally disagreed with M. Barre on

how best to avoid political disorder in the event of a right-wing victory on March 16.

M. Barre's suggestion that President Mitterrand should be forced to resign would lead only to even greater disorder, he said. The sole solution was for the French people to give the Socialists a "majority of progress" in the new Parliament.

"If President Mitterrand is compelled to appoint a right-wing Prime Minister, a time of instability and great difficulties will begin for France which is in need of continuity, not disorder," he told an election rally at the weekend in the Nièvre.

"France is the fifth industrial power and the third nuclear power in the world. A country like ours cannot be governed without a government united around the President."

What would have happened, for example, he asked, if a right-wing Prime Minister had been in power who had disagreed with President Mitterrand's recent decision to send French fighter aircraft into Chad to bomb the new airstrip held by Libyan-backed rebels in the north of the country? Under the constitution, the Prime Minister was head of the government, but the President was Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

Falkland islanders' plea to save fish

Port Stanley (AP) — Falkland Islanders urged Britain to impose a fishing zone around the archipelago when they welcomed Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, at the start of a five-day visit here.

A zone would help to control fishing in the South Atlantic where stocks are threatened by fish-factory ships and fleets of trawlers from several foreign countries.

The demonstration was organized by legislative councillors, who held up placards reading "Penguins need their squid quota, too" and "Save our wildlife — save our future."

The signs reflect the islanders' fears that overfishing may cause the great variety of sea birds and mammals living in the Falklands to disappear by the loss of their natural food supply.

The islands' development agency hopes to stimulate increasing visits by tourists, for whom the wildlife is the chief attraction.

A petition signed by most civilians expressed strong doubts that an attempt to establish a "multilateral" fishing zone, with the co-operation of all the countries now fishing here, could succeed in time to prevent serious damage to fish stocks.



Five killed in Beirut car-bomb blast

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

A car loaded with explosives blew up near a supermarket in the Christian sector of the capital yesterday, killing five people and wounding 12 others.

The blast was the latest in a series of bombings in east Beirut in which more than 40 people died and more than 150 were wounded.

Many of the bombs were aimed at offices of President Amin Gemayel's Phalange Party.

The authorities said the car was parked by a young man next to a truck belonging to French military observers, about 30 yards away from the

Prismatic supermarket in the Sin al-Fil district.

The man "greeted the observers in French and walked casually away". The French left and the car blew up.

Police estimated that the car was loaded with 44lb of dynamite. The bombers had attached several mortar shells and anti-tank mines, but they failed to detonate.

Lebanese troops later detained a young man and a woman.

No group admitted responsibility for the attack, but the Phalangists have blamed previous bombings on supporters

of Mr Elie Hobeika, a Christian militia leader who opposes President Gemayel.

Mr Hobeika has accused the President of sabotaging a Syrian-sponsored peace agreement he signed with Shia Muslim and Druze militia chiefs on December 28.

Mr Gemayel vetoed the plan, contending it made too many concessions to the Muslims.

The bombing came amid a fresh surge of violence in the Muslim sector of the capital. Gunmen of the radical Shia militia Hezbollah or Party of God, fought with communist militiamen around the Soviet

and Iranian Embassies. One Shia fighter was killed.

The bombing coincided with the assassination of a pro-Palestinian left-wing militia leader in west Beirut.

Police said unidentified gunmen stormed the apartment of Mr Issam al-Arah, murdered him and escaped.

A member of the Lebanese Communist Party's central committee was found murdered overnight with 44 other Communists by Islamic fundamentalists, party officials said.

Mr Souheil Tawile was taken from his home during the fighting.

Surprise concessio by Korea leader

Seoul (AFP) — President Chun Doo Hwan of S Korea yesterday proposed constitutional amendments by 1989 as the Oppos pushed ahead with its campaign to have presidential elections by popular vote.

Mr Chun, elected President by an electoral college and to step down in 1988, said the amendments should put to a referendum, and a special parliamentary committee on the constitution should be set up.

Mr Chun made the proposals during a surprise meeting with Mr Lee Woo, chairman of the opposition New Korea Democrat Party (NKDP), after the authorities lifted the 12-hour arrest imposed on leading political dissidents: Kim Dae Jung, 12 days ago.

The moves were aimed at easing a tense situation resulting from the opposition campaign to collect million signatures back constitution revision allowing popular presidential election. During the night a p cordon was removed from Kim's house.

This allowed 164 members of the party's 275-man Central Committee to gather at headquarters to resolve finally to press on with campaign.

Paris hits at US over Baby Doc

From Our Own Correspondent Paris

As increasingly forlorn attempts continue to find a country to accept the former President Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti, France is irritated with the US for refusing to take in its former protégé.

M. Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, said on TV that the American attitude was "not right". He insisted France would not keep "Baby Doc", who has been living with his family in luxury in the French Alps since his flight from Haiti on February 7.

M. Duvalier says he means to stay in France despite last week's decision by the office for the protection of refugees



M Duvalier left Haiti because "I hate violence".

to reject his plea for refugee status. He is appealing against that decision.

In his first interview since arriving, he said on French radio that he was willing to live only in France. He had never understood that his stay was merely temporary.

"If I had not understood that the only country in the world to which I feel close would welcome me, I would not have left power," he said, adding he had decided to leave Haiti because "I hate violence."

M. Duvalier said that he had no fear of being expelled, despite a declaration by M. Fabius that expulsion would have to be considered.

Despite France's evident desire to get rid of him as quickly as possible, some officials are beginning to suggest in private he may be here to stay. Expulsion is not possible unless another country accepts him.

Growing threat to Kohl

From Frank Johnson Bonn

The threat to the position of Chancellor Kohl, who is accused of giving false testimony about donations to party funds, is becoming more serious.

Exactly how serious no one here yet knows. That includes the opposition politicians who are calling on Herr Kohl to clarify the situation, and are stopping short of demanding his resignation. But Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the Minister of Finance, who would be favourite to succeed Herr Kohl as Chancellor, was quoted yesterday by Der Spiegel as privately saying that the situation was "very, very serious".

As expected, the public prosecutor's office at Koblenz yesterday decided to proceed with an investigation of the charges, made in a private summons by the Green MP, Herr Otto Schily, that Herr Kohl gave false testimony before a committee of the Land Parliament of the Rhineland-Palatinate, where Herr Kohl was Land Prime Minister.

Herr Kohl had told the committee that he did not know that an institute, on whose behalf he received money from private business, was in fact a Christian Democratic Party organization and therefore the donors should have been taxed.

The next stage will be either the public prosecutor announcing that there will be no charge, or a court announcing that Herr Kohl will go on trial.

But this is not the only legal threat to the Chancellor. Herr Schily has also taken out a private summons against Herr Kohl alleging that the Chancellor gave false testimony to a committee of the Federal Parliament (Bundestag) investigating the "Flick affair", a much bigger case of undeclared political donations.

Herr Schily says Herr Kohl concealed that he had received the equivalent of £16,400 from Flick. Herr Schily claims that the donation is to be found in the records of the Flick industrial concern, and was passed to Herr Kohl by his secretary, Frau Juliane Weber.

Thousands join call on Ershad to resign

From Ahmed Fazl, Dhaka

Thousands of people turned up in front of the national Parliament yesterday chanting slogans as Sheikh Hasina Wazed, the Bangladesh opposition leader, vowed to remove the country's four-year-old military government with "a month-long resistance movement" from next month.

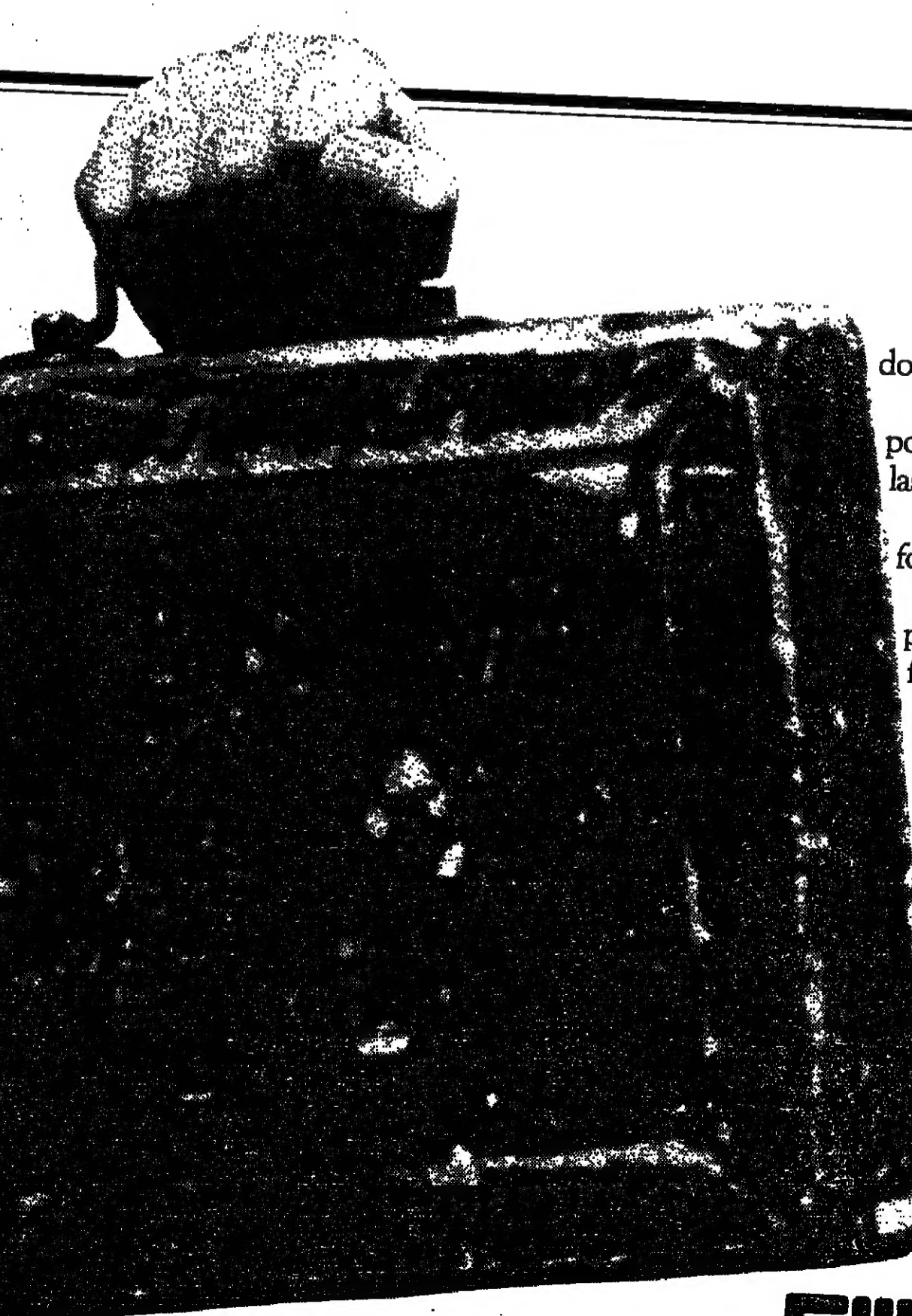
Mrs Wazed, who heads a 15-party opposition Alliance for Democracy, told her cheering supporters to organize people's committees in every town and village to resist the government of President Ershad.

Witnesses said that at least half a million people gathered at the capital's northern Sher Bangla Nagar district with banners, drums and effigies of the military ruler.

Mrs Wazed, leader of the Awami League, called for a countrywide *bandh* (general strike) on March 24 if President Ershad did not resign and send all soldiers back to barracks.

General Ershad, who seized power in a March 1982 coup, had said that he would hold elections by the end of June.

THE INSIDE STORY. INSIDE 24 HOURS



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them all by 6pm tonight.**

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secretary must leave at 5.30.**

**There are no other secretaries
available and there is a power
cut threatened at 5.45.**

What do you do?

Open the box.

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Philippines crisis • Washington warning • Manila confusion • World reaction

Reagan offers asylum to his old friend Marcos

From Michael Binyon
Washington

President Reagan, woken before dawn by the Philippines crisis, is willing to offer asylum to President Marcos, "his friend and long-term ally", to help to ensure a peaceful transition to a new government, the White House announced yesterday. So far it has received no request.

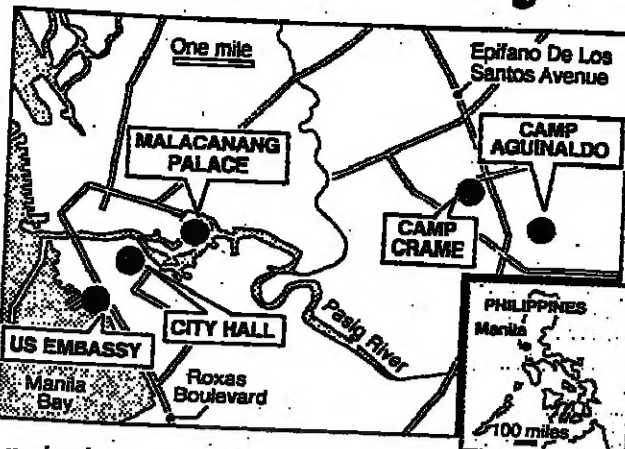
In its toughest statement yet, the Administration all but called on Mr Marcos to resign, warning him against futile attempts to prolong the life of his regime.

It urged him and those loyal to him not to use violence against the opposition forces. Washington threatened on Sunday to cut off \$55 million in aid immediately if he did so.

"Attempts to prolong the life of the present regime through violence are futile," said yesterday's statement, approved by President Reagan and issued before dawn.

"A solution to this crisis can only be achieved through a peaceful transition to a new government." The future was in the hands of the Philippines people.

The statement followed a flurry of activity over the



weekend as the Reagan Administration, deeply involved in the crisis, tried to prevent a degeneration into chaos and civil war.

Cutting short his weekend at Camp David, Mr Reagan held a lengthy meeting with his defence, intelligence, foreign affairs and security advisers, reviewing the options and keeping in close touch with the US Embassy in Manila.

A special inter-agency crisis team has been set up, and the White House is considering sending Mr Philip Habib, the President's special envoy, back to Manila within the next few days if possible.

The State Department has been in touch with government and opposition groups in Manila, and has held talks here with the delegation of Marcos Cabinet ministers who have arrived to lobby for support.

Mr Reagan will not see them, however, and has not telephoned Mr Marcos directly.

Mr Speaker said the Administration had told Mr Marcos that he would be offered "every assistance", as an old friend and ally, to leave. The US had planes available at the Clark airbase, though one was not standing by.



Rebel troops detaining a pro-Marcos soldier during their takeover of the government-run television station in Manila yesterday (above); while (below) another rebel stands guard over wounded Marcos soldiers.

Colonel flies into history

From David Watts, Manila

When the history of the Philippines revolution is written, a jovial Air Force colonel should get some of the credit.

Just when the balance of power between the forces of President Marcos and his rivals, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, Minister of Defence, and General Fidel Ramos, Chief of Staff of the Army, in the "New Philippines Government" seemed dangerously to the President's advantage, Colonel Antonio Sotelo received orders from Mr Marcos to attack the two "rebels" in Camp Crame with his lizard-green Blackhawk helicopter.

The helicopters came clattering out of the dawn light just as snipers, students and workers were falling back in the face of a massive show of force by riot control units using tear gas.

For the defenders of Crame, an attack by a clutch of five of the world's most deadly gunships seemed the end of everything. But, instead of rocketing and spraying the base with machine-gun fire, Colonel Sotelo's helicopters swung round in line and settled peacefully onto the camp's sports field.

"I had to make that move because there were already reports of tanks missing," said Colonel Sotelo by the side of his Blackhawk. The colonel and his men could

probably have killed both Mr Enrile and General Ramos in a determined attack, and resistance to the Marcos regime would have been over.

To see crying men falling back against harricades of bullets in the face of clouds of tear gas seemed to foretell a swift end to the affair. But the boys, who coughed themselves hoarse when their own tear gas blew back in their faces. And when they had reached their objective, they simply sat down.

The failure to press through the attack brought on a kind of exaggerated euphoria, so that when rumours of the departure of Mrs Imelda Marcos spread round the city it was easy to believe that everything was over. Rumours of a planeload of paratroopers ready to drop on Mr Marcos's Malacanang Palace only added to the feeling of certainty when the opposition's radio station reported that the Marcoses were on their way to Guam.

People were already celebrating when a kind of horror spread at the news that Mr Marcos was giving a press conference large as life on television, and looking decidedly fresh. There was Mr Marcos ordering a state of emergency. There is no cause for alarm. Malacanang is fully secured. The devastation of hope was almost palpable.

Euphoria dissolved into despair, joy into fear of retribution. General Ramos and the clandestine opposition radio station began calling people back off the streets into the safety of Camp Crame to prepare for the inevitable assault.

Suddenly Colonel Sotelo's helicopters were swinging low over the presidential palace. Six rockets slammed into it as one, and the idea of a pointless civil war seemed a horrifying reality, with gunmen moving towards the government Channel Four television station and Mr Enrile answering: "We're going to fight it out. We've got equivalent firepower."

The announcement of an Aquino provisional government seemed like a pointless diversion. The first inkling of renewed hope came when General Ramos's men captured the government television station after a fire fight leaving Mr Marcos without the voice so crucial in a fluid revolutionary atmosphere. The dictator was strangely voiceless after 28 years of unlimited access to the media.

By lunchtime it was clear that the bespectacled, almost owlish, General Ramos had won the vital backing of the Air Force.

Just then one of the touching vignettes that bring alive the awful tensions of the struggle for the individual came over the opposition radio: Professor of Law Alfredo Taviar, addressing an appeal to his nephew, Atelio, general in command of the Marines—the man who sent in his troops against the snms at dawn, the man commanding the largest and most deadly body of troops who have not yet rallied to the revolution, the man who can yet turn a triumph of peaceful protest into a bloody disaster.

"You uncle and Auntie Florence are both here in the office with General Ramos. Your six cousins are also here in Camp Crame. We would like to show you our full family support to the People's Movement or the power for the restoration of democracy in the Philippines... a professional soldier is not one who owes blind obedience to his professional superiors. A professional soldier is one who makes his decisions on the basis of evidence and intellect... I'm sure that is what you have in mind. We are appealing for you to pray for God's guidance."

A statement by the five countries—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand—said they had followed developments with increasing concern. The statement, which came before yesterday's fighting, said there was still time to act with restraint to bring about a peaceful resolution.

Moscow sees CIA coup plot

By Our Foreign Staff

In Tokyo, the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, said that he and a senior aide to President Reagan agreed yesterday that Japan and the US should try to settle the crisis without bloodshed.

The Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines, Mr Kiyoshi Sumiya, telephoned Mr Mar-

try to co-ordinate their approach.

No EEC country is expected to send a representative to the inauguration ceremony, if it goes ahead, and officials said ministers would discuss taking common action to demonstrate their governments' displeasure with Mr Marcos, including a possible recall of ambassadors.

Spain did call home its ambassador for consultations yesterday, because of what the Foreign Minister, Señor Fernandez Ordóñez, described as "the serious situation".

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The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, said that Mr Marcos should flee to avoid slaughter and mayhem. Embassy reports from the Philippines, he said, suggested that Mr Marcos was on the verge of leaving, but no destination was specified.

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Embassy business as usual

By Nicholas Ashford
Diplomatic Correspondent

While chaos reigns in Manila, it was business as usual yesterday at the Philippines Embassy in London.

"We are all working normally," said a Filipino diplomat who asked not to be named. "After all, we are civil servants and we work for whoever is running the Government."

This was not the view of Miss Corazon Belmonte, the First Secretary, who announced on Sunday that the Embassy no longer supported President Marcos.

Nor was the Philippine Ambassador working normally in his Embassy. He has been in Manila since January "for consultations".

ROME: Cardinal Sin of the Philippines has postponed indefinitely a trip to the Vatican during which he was to have conferred with the Pope on the situation in his country, a Philippines church leader in Rome said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Britain's call

The Foreign Office said in London that democracy must be returned to the Philippines. Developments reflected "the strength of feeling over the fraudulent conduct of the elections and the pressing need to restore democracy."

British Airways suspended its twice-weekly service to Manila.

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Obote man on murder charge

Kampala (AP) — Two men who held high posts under former President Obote of Uganda appeared in court yesterday, one charged with murder, the other accused of kidnapping with intent to murder.

Mr James Rwanyarare, former Minister for Culture and Community Development, was accused of killing a man at his farm in 1983, and Mr Matia Kisebbo, who was Dr Obote's Deputy Minister of Information and Broadcasting, was charged with kidnapping and intending to murder a political opponent, also in 1983.

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Jubilant rebel leaders Juan Ponce Enrile, left, and General Fidel Ramos at Camp Crame yesterday.

Britain backs US on arms

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain yesterday welcomed President Reagan's latest proposal for eliminating US and Soviet medium-range missiles from Europe and Asia over the next three years.

British sources variously described Mr Reagan's reply to the arms reduction plan which Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, outlined on January 15 as "ingenious", "a good response" and "a good basis for further negotiation."

One British official expressed the view that there was now a real chance of reaching an interim settlement on intermediate-range nuclear force (INF) missiles before the next Reagan-Gorbachev summit later this year.

There was considerable relief in London that Mr Reagan had firmly rejected Mr Gorbachev's proposal for a freeze on British and French independent nuclear deterrents at existing levels.

This, together with a proposal to ban the transfer of US missiles to Britain, would have prevented Britain from replacing its present Polaris submarine force with Trident.

In his six-page letter to Mrs Thatcher outlining his response to Mr Gorbachev, President Reagan said the US could not negotiate on behalf of other nuclear powers.

Britain is expected soon to send its own reply to an invitation it received from Mr Gorbachev last month to enter into arms reductions talks with the Soviet Union.

There had been considerable disquiet in London and other European capitals earlier this month that the US might be tempted to enter a medium-range missile agreement with the Soviet Union that would leave West Europe militarily vulnerable.

The European countries had expressed fears about Soviet superiority in conventional forces and the threat posed by short-range missiles based in Czechoslovakia during consultations which Mr Paul Nitze, President Reagan's special arms adviser, held with Nato countries two weeks ago.

The main focus of the US response is on medium-range weapons. President Reagan has proposed a phased reduction, leading to their total elimination on a global basis by 1989.

Under the Reagan plan the number of medium-range missile launchers held by the US and the Soviet Union would be reduced to 140 each in Europe by 1987, with proportional reductions in Asia. There would be a further 50 per cent cut in Europe and Asia in 1988.

The President's reply also dealt with strategic, chemical and conventional arms and space weapons.

GENEVA: Details of President Reagan's arms proposals were unfolded by the US negotiators to their Russian counterparts yesterday during a meeting at the Soviet diplomatic mission (Alan McGregor writes).

A plenary session lasting almost an hour was followed by further discussion between the two superpowers' delegations, headed by Mr Maynard Glitman and Mr Alexei Obukhov.

No considered Soviet reaction is expected before the negotiations are adjourned for a six-week recess on March 4.

Those detained included a man and woman who tried to set fire to an office of the ruling Apra party, and an army deserter.

Sticks of dynamite were thrown from cars at six embassies including those of China and the United States just before the 1 am curfew, imposed two weeks ago, went into effect.

The Government blames the Maoist guerrilla organization, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path).

2,500 held in Peru round-up

By Our Foreign Staff

About 2,500 suspects have been rounded up after more than 20 terrorist attacks in Peru over the weekend.

Four sticks of dynamite exploded less than 200 yards from where President Garcia was addressing a party rally in Trujillo, northern Peru, on Saturday night, but no one was hurt.

In Lima, two men and a woman fired shots at a police station, without causing casualties.

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Treason verdict on white

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A white man, Eric Pelser, aged 21, who admitted undergoing military training with the African National Congress (ANC), was found guilty of treason by the Rand Supreme Court here yesterday. It is believed to be the first case of its kind in more than 20 years.

The defence did not dispute the facts of the case as presented by the State, but argued in mitigation that Pelser was a confused and essentially non-violent idealist rather than a dedicated guerrilla. The judge is due to pass sentence today.

Meanwhile, in a Durban court, Andrew Zondo, a black

aged 19, from Durban's KwaMashu Township, admitted planting the mine that killed five whites and injured many others just before Christmas last year.

He told the magistrate yesterday that he had acted on his own and had not intended to kill anyone. His target had been the offices of the South African Airways.

At the time, the ANC said that one of its guerrilla units was probably responsible for the blast, but maintained that it was not acting under instructions from the high command.

Pelser admitted he went to

Botswana to avoid compulsory military service in South Africa, and while there was introduced to a man he knew only as "comrade Pete".

He was recruited by the ANC and flown to Lusaka, the Zambian capital.

In Zambia he volunteered to join Umkhonto We Siswe, the ANC's military arm, and spent just over three months at a camp in Angola being trained in "tactics, firearms, explosives and politics".

He was sent back to South Africa with £2,350, an AK-47 rifle, 120 rounds of ammunition and two hand grenades.

Iran boosts forces in war zone

Bahrain (Reuters) — Iran rushed volunteers yesterday to reinforce troops defending captured territory in southern Iraq, while Iraq reported slow advances for its counter-attacking forces.

Baghdad said its Navy attacked two ships near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf on Sunday night, while Iran said it shot

down an Iraqi helicopter which slightly damaged a 240,000-litre Cypriot tanker in a strike yesterday.

Iran said its troops wiped out two Iraqi infantry battalions attacking its front lines north of the disputed Iraqi oil port of Fao, which Iran captured early in its 15-day offensive into southern Iraq.

Iraq's official news agency, meanwhile, said forces at the centre of the three-pronged counter-attack had made more headway, but indicated less progress on the two other fronts.

Labour delegates get equal billing at Moscow congress

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The British Labour Party will be one of a number of left-wing European political parties whose delegations to the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party will be attending on an equal footing with foreign Communist parties and various revolutionary groupings from around the world.

Mr Vadim Zagladin, first deputy head of the party's international department, disclosed yesterday that for the first time delegations from labour, socialist and social democratic parties would be given equal status with Communist delegations from abroad. He said the gesture was being made to demonstrate "our readiness for co-operation with all democratic and peace forces coming out for security of the peoples and for prevention of nuclear war".

Mr Zagladin told a press conference that, out of the 153 delegations from 113 countries attending the congress, which opens today, 21 would be from labour, socialist and social democratic parties, among them would be groups from France, Italy, Spain, Greece, The Netherlands, Sweden and Japan. The So-

cialist International would also be represented.

According to British sources, the Labour Party's team at the congress, which is expected to be one of the most significant in the Communist Party's history, will consist of Mr George Robertson, MP for



Mr Robertson, part of a low-key delegation.

Hamilton, and Ms Jenny Little, secretary of the party's international department.

In diplomatic circles there was speculation that one reason for the low-key nature of the Labour delegation was a desire on the part of the leadership to avoid the political difficulties that would ensue if top Labour figures were seen enjoying equal status with such international participants as President

Karmal, leader of the Afghan delegation, and Commander Férnán Cienfuegos, the Salvadoran guerrilla leader.

The decision by Mr Gorbachev to change the facilities offered to non-Communist parties was seen as part of his policy of attempting to forge new left-wing alliances in Europe to counter the US military presence.

As part of the drive to line up West European public opinion behind the Kremlin's opposition to the US Star Wars programme, Mr Gorbachev has already agreed to visit Italy and Greece later this year, after his successful trip to Paris last October.

One senior diplomat said yesterday: "The decision to upgrade the status of the leftist parties appears part of Mr Gorbachev's attempt to spread the image of the new Soviet society as far as possible. It coincides with the complete disappearance of disputes over Euro-Communism as a congress issue."

Although foreign participation in the congress will be higher than ever before, the Chinese Communist Party has again refused to send a delegation.



A Russian worker steers a mobile platform around a picture of Lenin while hanging red banners in Moscow for the 27th Communist Party Congress, which opens today.

Old guard's last bow



The third anniversary of Leonid Brezhnev's death last year was marked by Pravda with an article entitled "Flattery and Obssequiousness", which was unmistakably critical of his leadership and drew on readers' letters to support its scathing attack on the idolatry which characterized the long Brezhnev era.

During the crucial 27th Party Congress, which opens today, close attention will be paid to how much further Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, takes the process of "de-Brezhnevization", and how personal the attacks on the once venerated leader, whose 18-year rule is now shouldering much of the blame for the Soviet Union's economic plight, become.

Particular note will be taken of the event traditionally reserved for the closing stages of the five-yearly gathering: the election of the new Communist Party Central Committee (currently about 520 strong) and its subsequent choice of a new Politburo, the secretive body which effectively runs the country on a day-to-day basis. Control over the composition of the committee is the main weapon available to Mr Gorbachev, aged 54, to reinforce the already formidable power base he has built inside the party since taking control in March.

Unlike the late Nikita Khrushchev, ousted largely as a result of his failure to secure party support for what were later dismissed as "hare-

brained schemes". Mr Gorbachev has been much more assiduous in placing his own men in key posts.

Senior diplomats predict that up to 50 per cent of the committee's membership may change hands during the congress, compared with an average turnover of only about 10 per cent during the conservative Brezhnev era. Many of those removed will be officials who came to power under Brezhnev.

Although the 5,000 delegates nominally select the

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

members of the new committee - which is itself mandated to convene in plenary session at least twice a year and serve as the supreme authority in the party between congresses - in practice they rubber-stamp a list already selected by the leadership.

Representation on the elite committee - whose members all receive chauffeur-driven black limousines - has become mainly institutional and regional, so it is bound to reflect the far-reaching personnel changes already made by Mr Gorbachev.

At the very heart of Soviet power - where a deliberate air

of mystery still surrounds the exact standing of individuals within the hierarchy - the congress will also name a new Central Committee Secretariat, in effect the party's general staff, as well as a Politburo.

The deftness and speed with which Mr Gorbachev has already moved to neutralize the "old guard" has convinced observers that, as with many previous congresses, the 27th will also result in a substantial boost for the power and status of the General Secretary.

After last week's firing of the humiliated former Moscow party chief, Mr Viktor Grishin, aged 71, the Politburo consists of 11 full or voting members, a number which is expected to be increased.

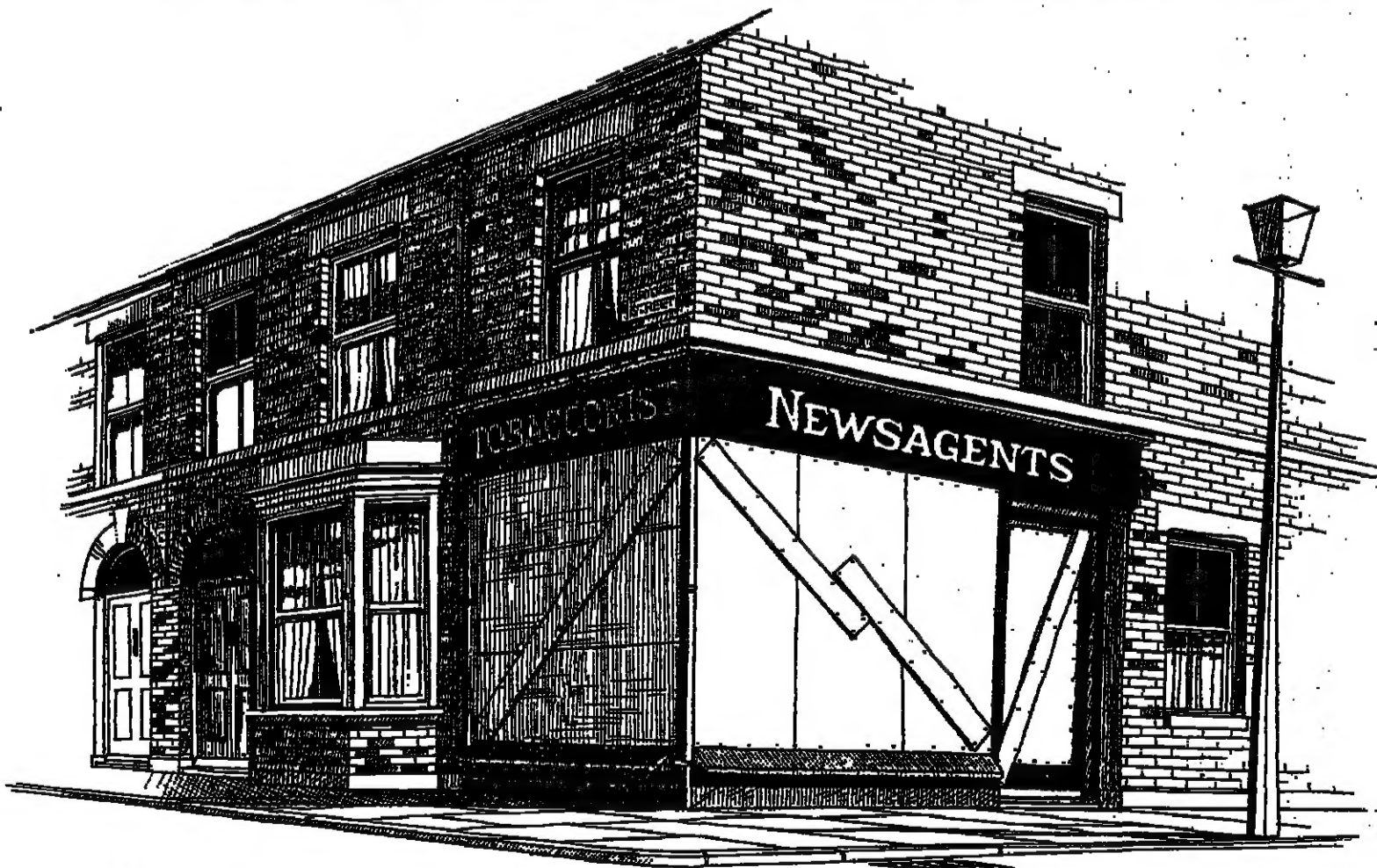
Until the end of the congress in the middle of next week, a question mark will hang over the future of the two remaining "old guard" figures still with full membership, Mr Dimaikhovskiy, aged 74, and Mr Yeliseyev, aged 67.

Both were associated with Brezhnev and both were recently re-elected First Secretaries in their respective republics of Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

"That does not guarantee them a continuing place in the Politburo," explained one well-placed Soviet source. "And even if they do get back, I would give them two years at the maximum. Their political future is strictly limited."

Continued

HOW MANY MORE CORNER SHOPS WILL YOU CLOSE DOWN, MR. CHANCELLOR?



The corner shop has always been an integral part of British life. Just ask Mrs. Thatcher. But its existence is being threatened. Excessive tobacco taxation puts literally hundreds of retail tobacco businesses out of business every year. Thousands of jobs have gone. Enough is enough. From now on, Mr. Chancellor, play fair on tobacco tax.

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China says sorry to its victims

From Mary Lee, Peking

China has promised to restore all the rights and property of Chinese who returned from abroad in the 1950s and 1960s but were persecuted during the 1967-76 Cultural Revolution.

The overseas edition of the People's Daily yesterday quoted Mr Miao Hui, director of the State Council's overseas Chinese affairs office, as saying that the remaining cases and problems will be resolved by the end of next year.

Western diplomats say that the new impetus behind righting the wrongs done on the thousands of Chinese who had returned - often from a higher standard of living in South-East Asia and the West - to help build up "The Motherland" after the Communist victory in 1949 comes from the need to attract the accumulated wealth some of these people still have overseas.

Moreover, diplomats add, many of these people have had the benefit of experience abroad, including better education, which China now needs.

Mr Miao, however, described the task of implementing the national policy towards returned overseas Chinese as "still arduous".

He called on all overseas Chinese affairs departments throughout the country to return all houses forcibly taken over from their owners, many of whom had fled from Indonesia in the early 1960s in the wake of anti-Chinese riots; to remove the Cultural Revolution's erroneous labelling of returnees and their relatives as "counter-revolutionaries"; and "rightists"; to punish officials who continue to persecute returned intellectuals and those with relatives abroad; and to help more from this group to join the party.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Benin: Boniface Koundou

By Caroline Moorehead

A 25-year-old agronomy student in the West African state of Benin, who spent five years in prison without charge or trial on account of alleged connections with the non-violent student protests of 1979, is in detention again, this time accused of manipulating other students to demonstrate for improvements in the education system.

The demonstrations, which were put down with considerable force, took place in April 1985. Boniface Koundou was re-arrested on the university campus of Abomey Calavi, in Cotonou, on June 13. He had been free for only 10 months. Since then he has neither been charged nor tried.

After his release, by presidential amnesty, in August 1984, Mr Koundou resumed his earlier studies at the university, although he was refused a grant. Amnesty International does not believe that he was involved in the student unrest of 1985, but that he may have been arrested only because of his earlier detention. Mr Koundou is now in the central jail in Cotonou, where standards of hygiene are very low, and illness spreads rapidly.



Mr Koundou: neither charge nor trial.

New Zealand suspects French trade pressure

From Richard Long, Wellington

The New Zealand Government is inquiring whether trade setbacks with France and New Caledonia are a direct result of Paris directives after the Rainbow Warrior affair or of initiatives taken by French officials.

The Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, revealed this yesterday when asked about the French action in blocking imports of \$8.5 million of lamb brains and the cancellation by New Caledonia of contracts for the purchase of meat and seed potatoes.

The Government has refused French requests for the release of two French secret service agents, Dominique Prieur and Alain Mafart, jailed for 10 years in November for their part in the sabotage of the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior and the death of a crew member.

Some right-wing French MPs have called for trade sanctions to force the release of the jailed pair, and the former French President, M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, said in a French radio interview at the weekend that a right-wing French Government would put pressure on New Zealand if it wins next month's elections.

Mr Lange said: "Right-wing, left-wing, the object is the same. There is no difference." He said New Zealand could take a case to the EEC, but it would have to establish that France was pursuing a political objective.

Hint on liner blame

From Our Correspondent, Wellington

New Zealand Marine Department experts now say they know what happened before the Soviet liner Mikhail Lermontov hit rocks off South Island on February 16, and who was navigating at the time.

Captain Steve Ponsford, heading the two-man preliminary inquiry into the sinking, said in an interview with Soviet television: laid the blame for the sinking on the pilot, saying he decided to take a route where there was no indication of depth on the charts.

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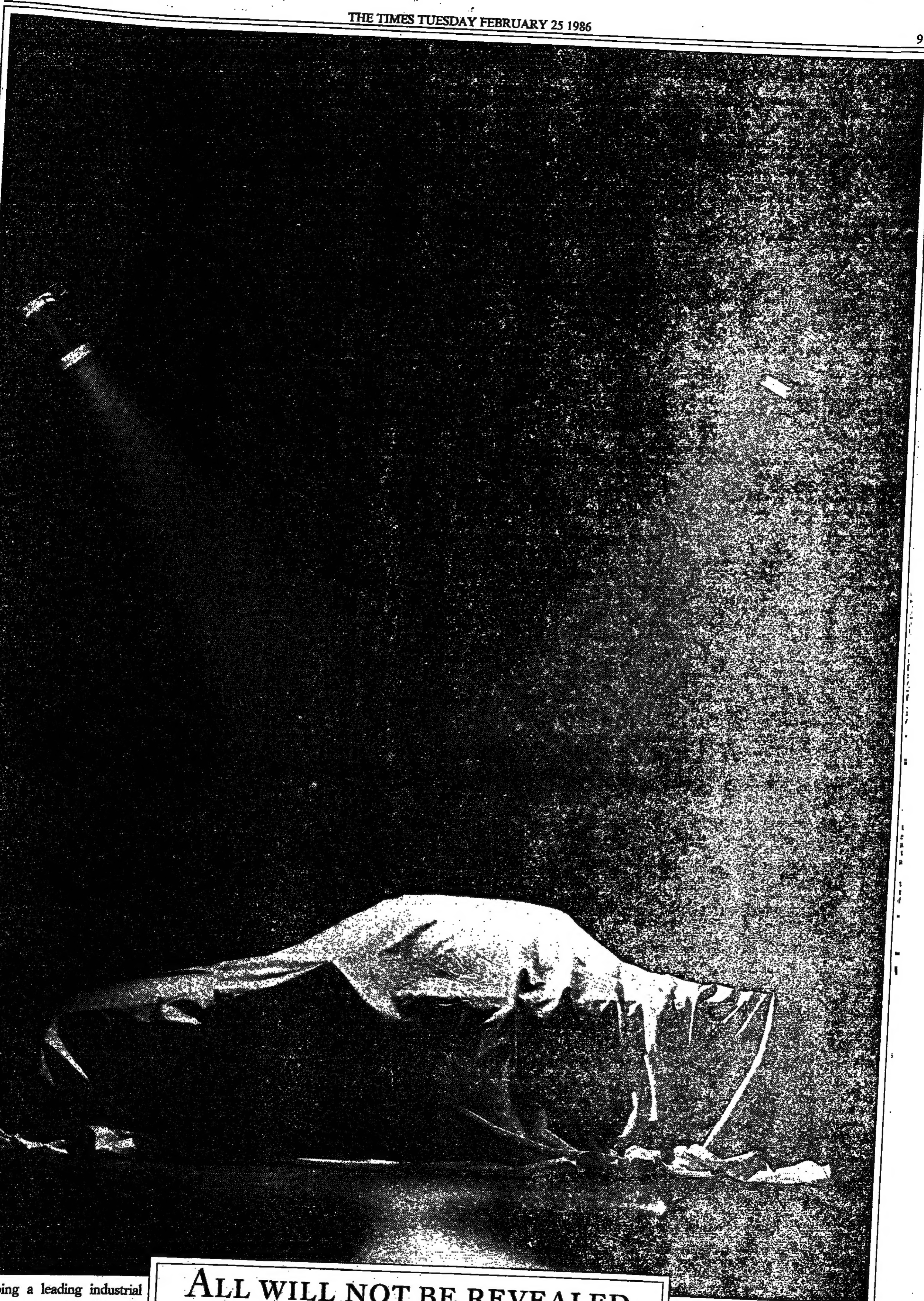
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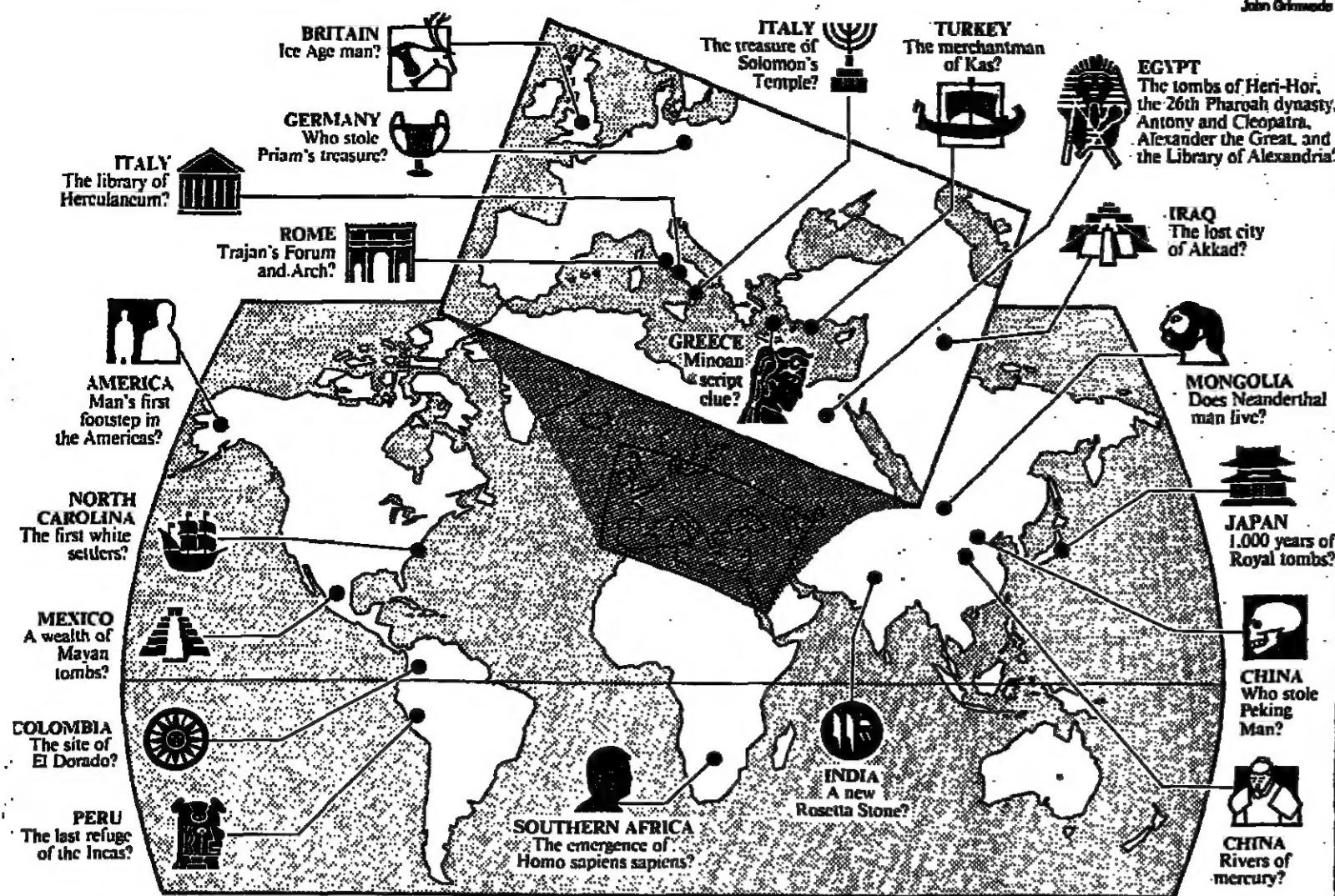
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Past with a rich future

This month's discovery of a lost Egyptian tomb prompts the question: how much more is still to be found? Alan Hamilton digs behind the headlines to find a world of treasure, as well as a host of clues to history, waiting to be uncovered

Archaeologists are in no doubt that the ground beneath their feet still contains an immense richness of both the fabulous and the academic. Professor Colin Renfrew, Disney Professor of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge, is certainly in no doubt that archaeology knows where it is going, even though, in this somewhat political and occasionally jealous discipline, there may be arguments about the precise destination.

The great thing about archaeology is that its raw materials are always increasing. In the case of history, most of the documents are now known and in libraries. We have almost as many Greek and Roman texts as we shall ever have. But in archaeology, we have as yet only scratched the surface.

"The really exciting discoveries are not the precious metals, but the ones that advance our knowledge of the human past, how we came to be where we are today. Archaeology is a science and, like all sciences, it is open to change. The one thing we know for sure is that we don't know very much yet; there are plenty of surprises in store."

The terracotta warriors of Xian or the tomb of Tutankhamun are spectacular and increase public appreciation (and therefore probably produce more funds in the long run), but they do not necessarily divulge much about the past. The opening of Tutankhamun's tomb by Carter certainly excited the public — sided by exclusive coverage in *The Times* in 1924 — but academics were much more excited by another find made about the same time: the discovery at Bogazkoy in Turkey of the capital of the Hittite civilization, with its library intact.

Many archaeologists specifically do not want to find treasure. It can be an exceedingly dangerous business, especially in South America where professional bootleggers may shoot an archaeologist they think is on the trail of ancient gold.

According to Paul Bahn, a freelance archaeologist and writer from Hull: "Finding treasure is very nice, but it is a by-product. It does, however, help to give you public support, especially at a time when, in this country at least, there is little money available for archaeology, and few jobs for archaeologists."

Most rich finds are stumbled upon by accident. The warriors of Xian were found by peasants digging a well. An age chariot burials at Wetway on Humberside were found by a quarryman. "Pete Marsh", as the body was named, was found in a Cheshire bog by commercial peat-cutting machines.

Archaeology is affected by fashion, and the current academic fashion is to put every-

thing in its context. There is a further fashion that, when you come across a find, you should leave most of it for future generations who will have better technology with which to examine it.

There are other considerations. A thousand years of Japanese emperors lie entombed, but the current culture of that country dictates that they should be left in peace. And there are modern mysteries more criminal than archaeological: whatever happened to King Priam's treasure that lay in the Berlin Museum until the outbreak of the last war? Did the Russians get it, or the peasants?

The evidence of unknown civilizations that will be unearthed in the future can only be left to the imagination. But here are the immediate prizes that the present generation of archaeologists hope to wrest from the earth's secretive bosom.

EGYPT

Egypt still has a wealth of secrets. Egyptologists would like to find the tombs of the 26th Pharaoh dynasty, said by Herodotus, the Greek historian, to be buried in a temple at Saïs on the Nile delta, where sites are now in danger because of the pressure on land for agriculture. Also high on their list is the tomb of Heri-Hor, a high priest of the early 21st dynasty in the Valley of the Kings. The tomb is believed by some to outshine even that of Tutankhamun. Also, the tomb of Imhotep, grand vizier and architect of the stepped pyramid at Saqqara, is thought to be near last week's major discovery.

Little is thought to remain undiscovered near the pyramids, although a second boat pit, thought to be identical to one already excavated, waits to be uncovered near the Pyramid of Cheops.

A priority in Egyptology is the need to discover more settlement sites. The lives and richness of the kings is now well documented, but the ordinary lives of the ancient Egyptians remain relatively unknown.

The greatest prizes of all lie beneath the modern city of Alexandria, and are likely to remain there for the foreseeable future. They are the tomb of Antony and Cleopatra, the great Greek library of Alexandria — which would be the level academic find — and the remains of Alexander the Great, buried in his glass coffin and much visited by the

Roman emperors, including Augustus who, according to the Roman biographer Suetonius, placed a golden diadem on the corpse's head.

ITALY

In Rome the monuments of several emperors still await discovery. Mussolini's grandiose triumphal boulevard, the Via Dei Fori Imperiali, is now being removed, and archaeologists will have a chance to study the area for the first time. It should reveal Trajan's forum and triumphal arch of the 2nd Century AD, as well as Vespasian's Temple of Peace.

South of Rome, the buried cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum are still barely half-excavated. The latter, much of it under the modern town of Resina, may still contain a major library, likely to be excellently preserved as it was entombed in mud rather than hot volcanic ash. A major Italian prize would be the tomb of Alaric, King of the Goths, who inflicted the first defeat on Rome in the 4th Century AD. He died in 410, and is thought to be buried under a river bed near Corsica. He may have by his side the great seven-branched candelstick from Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, carried off by the Romans and subsequently seized by the Goths.

IRAQ

The biggest known prize of ancient Mesopotamia awaiting discovery is the city of Akkad, near Babylon. It was the capital city of Sargon, who created the first Semitic empire in 2300 BC, and was the superior city to Ebla, unearthed in the 1970s by Italian archaeologists. It is likely to have valuable archives, but so far its existence is known only through the writings of ancient Babylon.

CHINA

One of the greatest finds of modern times was the terracotta army of Xian in central China, 5,000 guardians of a dead emperor. But the careful and unburied Chinese archaeologists have much more to find. The tomb itself, which will take several more years to uncover, is believed to contain a great three-dimensional map of the known world whose rivers run with mercury. China is rich in royal tombs, particularly of the T'ang dy-

nasty, and most are thought to be unlooted and intact. That of the Empress Wu of the 9th Century AD, 50 miles north-west of Xian, is expected to be particularly rich.

But China's greatest puzzle is the whereabouts of the bones of Peking Man. They were supposed to have been shipped to America for safety at the start of the Second World War; they have never been seen since.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Homo sapiens sapiens — that's us — was once thought to have originated in the Middle East, but it now seems more likely to have been Southern Africa. A chance find is eagerly awaited.

INDIA

The greatest desire is for the discovery of a new Rosetta Stone to unlock the secrets of the script of the Indus civilization of northern India, circa 2000 BC.

BRITAIN

Most of Britain's past is now fairly well documented, but archaeologists would like to find evidence of the very earliest settlement in the late Ice Age. Of the known sites, there are high hopes that continued excavation at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk will yield yet more riches to add to the great ship burial. Near Silbury Hill the inviting East Kennet burial mound, as yet untouched, may yield important Neolithic finds.

THE AMERICAS

No one has any real idea when man first set foot on the American continent. It is thought that he came by land from Siberia before the Bering Strait divided the continents. Evidence of truly ancient man would be a major find, and the further south the better, for it could then be assumed that all the land to the north was peopled. But as in all cases, without writings archaeologists have no idea where to start looking. Almost as fascinating, at least to the Americans, is to determine where the first white settlers of the 16th century landed and built their first settlement. Work is in progress on Roanoke Island, North Carolina,

to unearth the original settlement of 1584.

Among the ancients, only those of Mexico had writing, and there is a wealth of Mayan tombs in Central America waiting to yield their secrets. A more up-to-date archaeological puzzle concerns the identity of the thief who stole the magnificent jade mask of Palenque, one of the greatest Mayan treasures, from the Mexico City Museum last Christmas.

In South America, the treasures of the Incas are as yet unknown. South of Bogota, Colombia, a lake named Guatavita is thought to be the site of the fabled El Dorado, where the Incas cast unimaginable fortunes in gold into the water as offerings to the sun-god. Divers rarely fail to bring up gold pieces, but a major excavation would be exceptionally difficult.

And what became of the rest of the Inca gold? It is presumed that the Spaniards did not get it all, but it was not in Machu Picchu nor in any of the other lost cities that are constantly being stumbled upon in Peru. The Incas' last refuge, possibly full of gold, tombs and artefacts, lies waiting to be found.

TURKEY

The oldest shipwreck ever discovered, off Kas in Turkey, is likely to prove an important academic find as excavation proceeds. First spotted in 1984, the 3,400-year-old vessel was carrying a wealth of Phoenician, Greek and Cypriot artefacts, but the mystery is: who owned the ship?

GREECE

Buried under volcanic ash on the island of Thera, the city of Akrotiri is a kind of prehistoric Pompeii of about 1500 BC. There have already been some finds, including marvellous frescoes, but what archaeologists are hoping for is a library of clay tablets which would at last enable them to decipher the Minoan Linear A script.

OUTER FRINGE

Dr Myra Shackley is looking for surviving remnants of Neanderthal man in Outer Mongolia, but has yet to find any. There are those who believed that the Romans reached South America, and they hunt for Roman remains in Rio. There are also constant attempts to prove the Bible by archaeology, but no one has conclusively found remains of Noah's Ark; the only recent piece of sound Biblical archaeology has been the uncovering of Cecil B. de Mille's 1923 set for *The Ten Commandments* under the Californian sand.

The new London theatre arriving at platform six

Hard by Charing Cross station, the picturesque old Playhouse is about to be awakened from a long sleep

the weight, and the roof separating the theatres from flat-dwellers will be reinforced and sound-proofed.

Inside, the auditorium is in surprisingly good order for a building that has stood empty for 10 years. Instead of blackening or mouldering, the gilt still gleams on fine French plasterwork, on lantern poles, wall panels and bare-bosomed caryatids supporting the roofs of the boxes.

The 1907 interior, by two French architects, Detmar Blow and Fernand Billerey, is vivacious and light-hearted. It feels refreshingly different from the solid English style. The consultant on restoration, Iain Mackintosh of Theatre Projects, says: "It's the only French theatre in London. It's as different in ambience as a French restaurant is from an English one — very comedic and graceful, a theatre of style, small enough for laughter but with some features of grandeur — marvellous for Feydeau or Shaw."

Arms and the Man was written specifically for this theatre in 1904, when it was called The Avenue. After its third reopening — set for July 1987 — there should be a good reason to walk down the avenue again.

Peter Lewis



Coming attraction: Robin Gonslow and Andrew Treagus with an artist's impression of the refurbished building

CONCISE CROSSWORD (NO 884)

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- Big game hunt (6)
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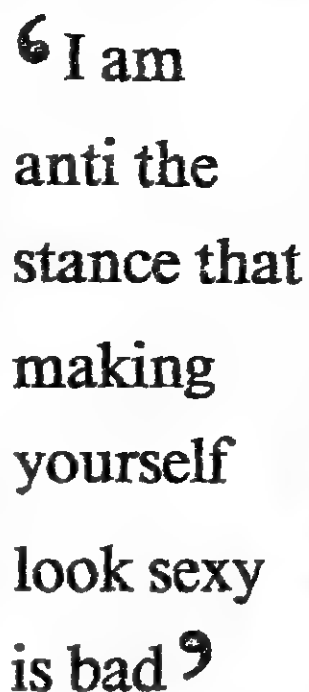


هكذا سنالأصل

Hamnett says: Streetwise is smart

KATHARINE
HAMNETT

Form-fitting clothes, body-conscious swimsuits, separates moulding flesh in stretch fabrics and men's suits worn



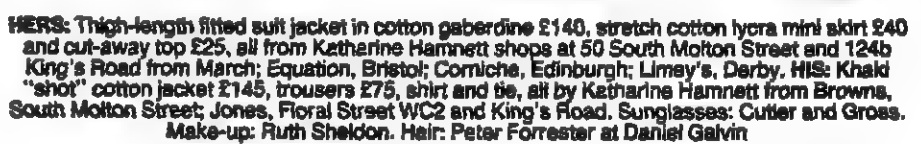
Left: Katharine Hammett
be-hatted against
'feed the world' poster

"But women need to accept that they can be equal and still look like women", she says.

She is also a business woman, although she says that it has taken her 10 years to learn

The Hamnett shops will open next autumn, designed by Norman Foster, the architect. The move away from the

"I'm trying to put a subversive element in the clothes we're doing", she says. "They are not more expensive, but better cut. I like clothes that make you look more intelligent."



HEALTHY LIVING
MISS SELFRIDGE

Nor are the weird and wonderful clothes and wild prints of outrageous young style found in the chains. But

The riding jacket was an important shape with its high lapels and fitted waist. The

The move from the hard-edged 1960s to the laid-back 1970s was echoed by the clothes in this show. Bright acid colours, orange, lime and shocking pink, were mixed with washed-out, cropped denim which harked back to hippier days.



Peplum jackets and waterfall skirts brought a touch of Dynasty-style glamour to the Wallis show. Colours were bright, hot pink and jade for blouses and T-shirts, but sober grey and navy blue for city smart suits and separates. The newest shape in a collection that is unerringly classic is the riding jacket, a three-quarter length coat worn over a slim straight skirt. Wallis cater to the working girl but there are over-sized shiny skirts or blouses and jackets with short zipped skirts for more sporty appeal.



Would you treat a child suffering from leukemia?	
Would you retain Society's hard won control over polio, diphtheria, TB and smallpox?	
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Would you like to see a cure for AIDS and Legionnaire's disease?	

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Children stole the show, tripping over layers of baggy shirts and jeans worn under buttoned-up skirts and trailing tutucoats. The street-cool kids raced on to the catwalk, making their dreadlocks and untamed hair a hurray for fashion.



The kit, to fit sizes 32" - 40", comes complete with all the wools, pattern and buttons, and at £28.75 including postage and packing represents excellent value. The yarn is 100% pure new wool in thick four-ply and thin Donegal wools. The pattern, in simple stocking stitch, is suitable for an average knitter. The classic shape and subtle blend of colours make it a very easy and flattering jacket to wear. When ordering use **FREEPOST** - No stamp needed.

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THE TIMES DIARY

The brass of it

I don't think mummy would approve, so I must ask Sally Oppenheim, the former Consumer Affairs minister, to avert her eyes. In his book *Telecommunications: A Businessman's Guide*, Tory MP Philip Oppenheim writes with co-author and business partner John Derrick: "Another alternative to purchasing a phone from BT is to buy an illegal one that has not been through the approvals process... we cannot really see that illegal handset do anyone any harm, and the chances that having one will get you into any trouble are slim, to put it mildly... Our advice, therefore, is not to ignore the illegal handset market." Oppenheim goes on: "There is also the risk of running into a troublesome BT engineer... some of them take a very sporting view, particularly if you offer them a suitable retainer." Yesterday Oppenheim told me: "I make no bones about it. You had to bribe a BT engineer to get work done. If they said the work would involve a one year's wait, you'd ring up your friendly engineer and slip him a fiver." Oppenheim suggested that for more up-to-date information I should subscribe to his magazine, *What to Buy for Business*.

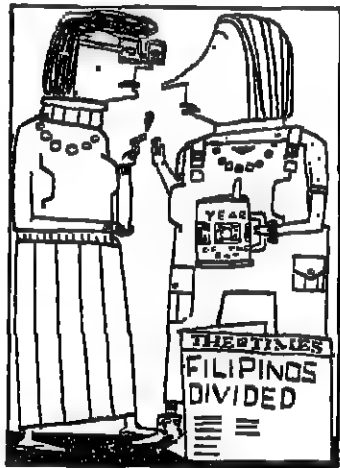
Not quite final

Despite Britain's withdrawal last year, Sir Geoffrey Howe has written to Unesco seeking special facilities for two British diplomats in Paris. They would be responsible for preserving liaison with Unesco's secretariat and with the delegations of all the member states and, if Howe's request for observer status is granted, would have access to facilities, documents and buildings. If Unesco's executive board agrees when it meets in May, I wonder if there will be a *quid pro quo*. All privileges and immunities for Unesco officials visiting Britain will be withdrawn from March 13, including tax exemption, diplomatic passports and residence rights.

Living on

The two Worthing brothers who vowed to starve to death unless the local council agreed to save the town's Connaught Theatre enjoyed their first square meal in 43 days yesterday after the council unexpectedly granted a reprieve at the weekend. Both Roy and Michael Wilson, who had seen every play at the theatre for the past 10 years, looked skeletal; both had shed stones, and Michael went into a coma last week. The council denies the fact prompted it to save the theatre.

BARRY FANTONI



'It was terrible. Neville went in and found our homeboy hitting the maul!'

Surfacing again

Three years after scuppering the Prime Minister on television with precisely aimed questions about the Belgrano, Diana Gould is about to make a comeback. The part-time Cirencester games teacher is organizing a public tribunal at Hampstead Town Hall to re-examine the Belgrano sinking on the fourth anniversary in May. "Clive Ponting, Tavin Dalrymple and Ian Mikardo are all expected to appear," she told me. "So far we have not found anyone to defend the government, but we are sending invitations to Francis Pym and Lord Lewin, who asked permission to sink the ship."

Silenced

Former Bradford headmaster Ray Honeyford, hounded out for writing an article about the disadvantaged white pupils in his school, has still to win freedom of speech. He was to have addressed Bristol Polytechnic's Conservative association today but the meeting has been cancelled, at the request of the governing body. "I was going to talk about my experience," he said. "There is usually no problem. A meeting at Keele last week was an excellent occasion." The governors said that in light of recent disturbances elsewhere, his views might offend staff and students. The issue was raised by Rob Glendinning, chairman of the governors and also chairman of Avon council's education committee, which is likely to sit in judgment on Jonathan Savery, a local teacher under investigation for an allegedly racist article in *The Salisbury Review*. It was there, of course, that Honeyford wrote one of his offending tracts.

PHS

What Reagan stands to lose

Mary Dejevsky outlines the likely future of the US bases in the Philippines as the anti-Marcos drive gathers pace

The increasing pressure on President Ferdinand Marcos to step down leaves the Americans in a state of uncertainty. They have important strategic and financial interests in the Philippines: two military bases and investments of around \$2,000 million a year. Any new government is likely to bring change in its wake.

A peaceful transfer of power to a plausible opposition grouping, preferably containing a military element, would make the US position easier. The Philippine military has strong links with the US. Its commanders are American-trained; its equipment and weapons come largely from the United States, and its strategy and tactics reflect a strong American influence. None the less, any new government might feel obliged to alter the existing arrangements if only to distance itself from the Marcos-US link.

The US has had its Subic Bay naval base and the Clark Air Force base since 1947. The initial agreement secured a US right to use the bases for 99 years. In 1979 a series of amendments made it clear that the Philippines had sovereignty over the bases, reduced the territory they occupied, and made

Filipinos responsible for their external security.

These changes were a response to the changing assessment in the United States itself of the need for the bases and a growth of Filipino nationalist sentiment. The debate within the US followed the Vietnam debacle; Americans asked if it was worth maintaining a military presence in Asia at all. The US also saw the chance to normalize relations with the new, emergent China.

Sensing this possible lack of commitment, Marcos re-established relations with Moscow and Peking. Philippine dependence on the US began to be questioned.

But the US assessment changed dramatically in 1978 when Vietnam signed an agreement giving the Soviet Union extensive naval facilities at Danang and Cam Ranh Bay. Suddenly Vietnam seemed to move from a position of potential neutrality between the three superpowers of the area, the USSR,

China and the USA, to a Trojan horse for Soviet influence. The bases had to stay. Marcos recognized his improved bargaining position and the amendments to the original agreements were negotiated and signed.

Today the US has a number of options. These are analysed in a newly-published study, *The Philippines After Marcos*, edited by R.J. May and Francisco Nemenzo (Croom Helm £17.95).

The first will be to hope that any new government's appetite for change will be restricted to cosmetic alterations — a modest increase in the number of Filipinos working at the bases, or an equally modest decrease in the territory they occupy.

The second could be to offer to close or suspend the facilities at one of the bases — probably Clark airfield, for which alternative facilities could be found at Guam. Unless the nationalist and anti-American element in any new

Philippine government goes beyond the level that now looks probable, however, that government is likely to view such a radical scaling down of the US presence as likely to jeopardize the country's own security and lead to even higher unemployment.

The final scenario, the prospect that the Americans would be forced to withdraw entirely, looks remote. It would follow only from a left-wing or communist takeover, which appears only a long-term possibility, or from a complete breakdown of law and order. In that case, the Americans would have two options.

● To intervene from their bases. After the US experience of Asian imbroglios, that looks unlikely.

● To abandon both the naval base and the air base and use the facilities on Guam or nearby islands. The disadvantage here is that Guam is too far east to provide a US reach anything like as effective as it has at present, and the devastating effect such a withdrawal would have on morale at home. Fortunately for Washington, deciding between these two worst options is not yet necessary.

Musa Mazzawi on the Palestinian pleas that still go unheeded

Few Palestinians are grieving at the failure of the talks between King Hussein and Yasser Arafat. Indeed, many are jubilant that Security Council Resolution 242 has been unequivocally rejected on behalf of the Palestinians. The resolution offered the Palestinians less than nothing, and the terms reported to have been laid down by Washington as a precondition to any possible involvement by the Palestine Liberation Organization in a settlement are an insult to the Palestinian people.

The simple fact, which no amount of political smart talking is likely to obscure, is that the Middle East conflict is basically about the Palestine problem: about the Palestinians. They are the primary — and some would say the only — party that should be involved on the Arab side in the search for a solution.

The Palestinian people have one of the highest levels of education in the Middle East. They do not feel the need for guardians or custodians. The PLO is their "sole legitimate representative", according to a resolution adopted by the Arab summit conference in Rabat in 1974, and endorsed at the time by King Hussein. Many countries, and the United Nations itself, recognize the PLO specifically in that capacity.

Resolution 242 has no special sanctity, either legal or moral. It is not in law unlike the 241 resolutions that preceded it and the scores that have followed it since 1967. Constant reference to this resolution (which was adopted by the Security Council at a time when it had no Arab member) does not add to its legal substance. It should be interpreted in the context of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (which speak of the right of peoples to self-determination and to fundamental freedoms) and of the many resolutions adopted by the General Assembly which speak of the "inalienable rights of the Palestinian people".

The PLO is on record as agreeing to accept all United Nations resolutions as an integral package (including the partition resolution of 1947 which gave 67 per cent of the land of Palestine to the Jews, who then comprised only 35 per cent of the population). Is this not concession and compromise enough by the Palestinians?

What irks them is that there is not one mention in Resolution 242 of "Palestine" or "the Palestinians". There is a mere oblique reference when the resolution "affirms... the necessity for achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem". The Palestinians are thus dismissed as just a



Who will make amends for 242?

"refugee problem". How can a Palestinian leader acquiesce in that without betraying himself and his people?

Resolution 242 calls for the "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict". There has been a great deal of argument as to what precisely this means. Is it all the territories occupied, or only some of them? The Israelis naturally favour the latter interpretation. They speak about a "vulnerable" Israel with a narrow territorial waist difficult to defend militarily, and they say they are entitled to "defensible" borders. This, of course, can mean only one thing to Israel's neighbours — further Israeli territorial aggrandizement.

Resolution 242 speaks of "respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area". In other words, respect for the sovereignty of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, not for a Palestinian state. The resolution envisages the Palestinians as existing only under the Jordanian umbrella. The

Palestinians do not accept this, and insist on the recognition of a Palestinian identity. There is no justification in law or morals for not conceding this claim.

It is because the PLO has so often categorically rejected Resolution 242 that Israel and its allies, chiefly the USA, have insisted on the resolution's acceptance as a precondition. If Yasser Arafat were suddenly to turn round and accept this resolution, the Israelis would immediately contrive another precondition equally indigestible to the PLO.

All the indications are that the Israelis do not genuinely want to negotiate with anybody about anything to do with Palestinian land. They want to continue with their colonization policy and are not likely by peaceful means to give up any significant part of what they now hold. The word "irreversible" is often used by Israeli spokesmen as describing the present state of affairs. The maximum that Israel is likely to concede is "autonomy" — a little more freedom for the Palestinians to control minor domestic affairs.

Nicholas Timmins on official failure to work out an acceptable scheme to help the poor

Foolproofing the fuel bill

coldest months, would be expensive and, in mild winters, would a bad winter would raise the same problems of defining a severe winter that plagued payments last year when the formula used proved so bizarre and cumbersome that it was eventually ruled unlawful.

Even finding a satisfactory definition would solve only part of the problem. While it might be freezing in Cornwall it could still be mild in north-west Scotland, and vice-versa. Paying a flat-rate bonus also fails to match extra payments to the widely differing costs of extra heating in well insulated and poorly insulated homes.

The solution governments have adopted is therefore to try and match extra payments to extra expenditure. In the past that was based on the judgement of local benefit officers relying on little more than a benefit officer sticking his head out of the window and deciding it was unseasonably cold. Under that system, 270,000 extra payments were made in the severe winter of 1981/82; research showed that hundreds of thousands more failed to get the money because the extra payments were inconsistently applied or because

many simply failed to claim — from ignorance, pride or a belief that the system simply would not provide the extra money.

In an attempted improvement, a complex formula based on Meteorological Office data was introduced last year to regulate the payments for any given office. This too proved inconsistent. Kent, with its worst weather last winter for two decades, failed to qualify because the temperature at Heathrow, its measuring station, was not low enough.

The Social Security Commissioners have ruled that system unlawful, ministers have gone back to a system based on discretionary judgements of how bad the weather is, again this is proving unsatisfactory.

There are three further problems. ● No allowance is made for the greater cost of heating in the generally icy north than the generally mild south, and for any extra payment to be made the weather has to be exceptionally severe for the area. The implication is that pensioners in Aberdeen are a harder breed than those in Bournemouth and need less help. simply be a bonus. Paying only in

Roger Scruton

Immoral man's survival kit

If we really wish to explain the increase in crime, we should consider the following hypothesis: that crime is explained by our desire to explain it. As we look for the causes of our behaviour, so we take attention away from the act itself, fencing it round with excuses, isolating it from judgement, and making inaccessible the only ground in which the seeds of morality can be sown: the ground of individual responsibility.

Surely it is this habit of explanation — this obsession with the "genealogy" of our acts and intentions — which has most effectively "transvalued" our values. That which Nietzsche so joyfully recommended is precisely what, in retrospect, we have greatest reason to deplore: the destruction of morality, by the habit of explaining it.

It would be wrong to assume, however, that the new "science" of man really does explain our behaviour. Their scientific guise is often no more than a mask, behind which a more serious moral purpose advances: the purpose of lowering the price of absolution. Left to his own in a godless universe, modern man sees no reason to deny himself and desires only the excuses that will justify him in the eyes of creatures like himself.

And since he recognizes no authority higher than science, it is to science that he turns for his culpation. The sciences which are chosen as his idols are those which are most prodigal of excuses, which rain down upon him a stream of whitewashing explanations, and which tell him in one and the same breath that he deserves our sympathy and that he cannot be blamed.

Perhaps no science has been a more powerful source of absolution than the psychoanalysis of Freud. Here, in a single theory, the wandering conscience finds a complete kit for survival in a demoralized world. The sinner becomes a patient, and if he seems to do wrong, it is not really he who does it but an Unconscious whose machinations are unknown to him.

If he is tormented by conscience, then this too is the work of the Unconscious, which erects before his inner eye the spectre of a Super Ego whose authority can be instantly discounted as the survival of a primitive fear.

As the stage of personality is vacated by responsibility, however, it becomes the scene of a new and more spectacular drama — a noble tragedy in which the self is justified in the very act of being overwhelmed. Psychoanalysis simultaneously removes the individual from the sphere of praise and blame and returns him to the vindicated, a hero who has been finally justified by the fate to which he must succumb.

And psychoanalysis does all this without the slightest moral penalty: the only cost is financial, and who would not part with money for the sake of a clean conscience and an inexhaustible store of new excuses?

Of course, there has been no shortage of critics anxious to point

to the scientific deficiencies of psychoanalytic theory: its dependence on metaphor, myth and imagery; its blithe indifference to evidence and refutation; its lack of experimental method; its self-serving definition of "illness", "therapy" and "cure". However, devotees of this "science" are impatient with such feeble, external criticism.

Their attitude is typified by Freud who, presented with a dream which seemed to refute his wishfulfillment theory, replied: "No, your dream is an expression of the unconscious wish to refute my theory." For the whole purpose of these pseudosciences of the soul is to make their exponents and their adepts immune from criticism, even from the criticism which their scientific pretension invites.

To break into this charmed circle and rescue the trapped moral sense is no easy task. One method, however, promises success: this is to treat the science of the soul as it treats morality, to search for its genealogy, and so to "transvalue" it.

As Ernest Gellner shows in a brilliant book (*The Psychoanalytic Movement*, Paladin, £3.50), the result is the downfall of every claim to authority that the Freudians have made. Professor Gellner describes the genesis of Freudian psychology in modern man's most dominating fear: the fear of other people. The Freudian doctrines, he argues, are superstitious responses to that fear, which enclose it, nurture it and promise a final redemption.

The idea of an Unconscious is introduced in order to devalue all certainties, and to place the patient's psyche outside of his own reach. The analyst thereby becomes priest in a solemn *rite de passage*, conducting the patient from unbelief to holy enlightenment. Gellner describes powerfully, and in the most brightly coloured prose, the causality of Freudian dogma in this concealed religious urge. In doing so he destroys its scientific claims and devalues its morality. But he also praises, in a manner that is at once serious and ironical, these novel certainties so neatly tailored to the modern conscience, and so carefully separated from every suggestion of blame.

Gellner stops short, however, of drawing the most important conclusion. While this modern superstition erodes the moral sense, the religion upon which our civilization was built did just the opposite, upholding and supporting the idea of moral responsibility, and giving divine authority to its absolute commands. The secular superstitions offer excuses where religion offered fear, anger and blame; and while it compelled man against his will to be good, they entice him along the path of immorality.

When laws are made, institutions governed, and even churches led by those in the grip of these exculpating idolatries, should we really be surprised that the people turn more cheerfully to crime?

The author is editor of *The Salisbury Review*.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Face-packing the court

The trial continues today of Lord Howard de Piltoty, chairman of Groaty Body Products Ltd, who is accused of making 13,450 beauty products which tend to make the public less beautiful. He pleads guilty to two charges and not guilty to 13,448. Here is an extract from yesterday's proceedings.

Counsel: We now proceed to item 865, your Pine Disinfectant. Do you really claim that pine trees help to disinfect you?

Defendant: Not at all.

Counsel: Then the name is a misleading claim.

Defendant: Not at all. We manufacture Pine Disinfectant so that people can disinfect their pine trees. Go round your plantation once a week, splashing it liberally on your trees, and you will have the healthiest pines for miles around.

Or splash it on your stripped pine furniture. As long as you keep buying the stuff and splashing it around, we're happy.

Counsel: So you do not advise putting it in lavatories?

Defendant: That depends. If it's a pine lavatory, why not?

Counsel: Item 866 is described as "Nettle shampoo, for dry hair". Nettle-867 is called "Nettle shampoo, for oily hair". Do you recommend using this shampoo to get your nettles clean?

Defendant: No. We find that, generally speaking, people are happy with the cleanliness of their nettles.

Counsel: How can nettle shampoo be good both for dry and oily hair?

Defendant: It gets oily hair clean, it gets dry hair wet.

Counsel: Nettle does this?

Defendant: No, shampoo does this. The nettle is included only as a health food.

Counsel: Could you explain this?

Defendant: Certainly. People are very conscious these days of the need to slim, so they don't like to buy any beauty aid with fattening content like butter or coconut. We find that soaps and shampoos including health foods like nettle, yeast or brown rice do very well. We have recently introduced tofu

as a leg cream, and it has done very well.

Counsel: Can you also eat it?

Defendant: Possibly. I would imagine it is very difficult to lick it off your legs.

Counsel: Hmm. Does the testing of your products involve any cruelty to animals?

Defendant: Absolutely not. We test them only on pine trees, and generally they survive pretty well.

Counsel: And if the pine tree keels over and dies?

Defendant: We add a note. In very small print: Not To Be Used On Pine Trees.

Counsel: Item 868 is called "Strained Greek Yogurt Face Cream". Who is this for?

Defendant: Strained Greeks. It works quite well on tense Italians as well.

Counsel: What would you recommend to a stressful Frenchman?

Defendant: Entrez-vous une maîtresse, monsieur, entrez-vous une maîtresse!

Counsel: Let us move swiftly on to item 869, your Seaweed Moisturizer. I take it this is for moisturizing seaweed?

Defendant: Not at all, smarty-pants. It's for rubbing on your face.

Counsel: To what effect?

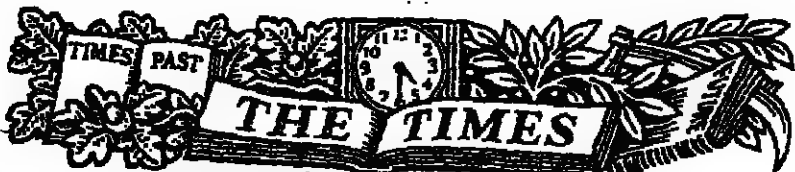
Defendant: To help forecast the weather. If your face goes dry, you're in for a hot sunny spell. If your face starts dripping, then rain is due within 24 hours. If your face goes cold and grey, then surely snow is on the way.

Counsel: We now come to one of the two items to which you have pleaded guilty: 870, Crab Apple Skin Roughener. So you admit that this is not a beauty product?

Defendant: Absolutely. It's for people who have come back from an adventure holiday with clear, smooth skin. What they need is a set of instant wrinkles, and that is what Crab Apple Skin Roughener does. It is made, incidentally, from a mixture of apples and dressed crab, which gives them an appealing maritime odour.

(The trial continues. More some other time.)

هكذا من الأصل



FIRST CATCH YOUR MILITANT

Since he gave notice to the Labour Conference in Bournemouth that he saw no place in the Labour Party for members of the Militant Tendency, Mr Neil Kinnock has zealously and properly pursued his intention of rooting out that party within a party. His test case has been the Militant-dominated Labour Party in Liverpool whose conduct has been the subject of an internal Labour inquiry. As a result of this, ten Liverpool Militants, including the deputy leader of the City Council, Mr Derek Hutton, stand accused of subverting the party constitution, and of abusing its rules in order to give the Militants control of the City Council. Tomorrow, Labour's National Executive Committee will vote on whether the ten accused Militants should be expelled, as the majority of the committee of inquiry recommends.

In his action against the Militants, Mr Kinnock has had the support of the soft left (his own wing of the party) which, on the NEC, now seems to include such decidedly firm left figures as Mr David Blunkett, the leader of Sheffield Council. At Bournemouth, Mr Blunkett, to Mr Kinnock's evident annoyance, tried to get Mr Hutton and his friends off the hook by proposing talks to solve Liverpool's constitutional crisis, which predictably came to nothing. Like Mr Ken Livingstone in London, Mr Blunkett is one of those leftists who have risen to influence through power in local government, and who expect to be in the next Parliament with safe Labour seats. They are interested in power and like Mr Kinnock they do not wish the public to be frightened by the blatantly anti-democratic Militants. It seems likely that Mr Blunkett, and other generally left-wing votes, will ensure that the NEC decides to expel the ten.

A major row will then erupt in the Labour Party. For the Militants have the support of Mr Tony Benn, Mr Eric Heffer

and Mr Dennis Skinner on the NEC, and of others whose instinctive allegiance is to a harsher, more realistic and harder-headed kind of Marxism than that represented by the self-discrediting Militants. Indeed, one of the most conspicuous features of internal Labour politics in the last decade and more has been the willingness of those who conduct their politics in what might be called a hard-headed Leninist frame of mind to defend the infiltrating Trotskyists, for whose type of political thinking they have contempt, but whose activities within the party they see as useful in helping to manoeuvre it leftwards.

The Militants will also have the support of a minority group on the enquiry, Mrs Margaret Beckett and Mrs Audrey Wise, and if the ten are expelled they will presumably appeal to the next Labour Conference. Their expulsion (if the NEC decides on it) will presumably be a substantial union card vote majority for it. But the Militants' cause will arouse passionate antipathetic feelings in the rank-and-file which are hardly likely to help Mr Kinnock's wish to assure the electorate that he has a moderate party behind him.

That apart, expulsion of the ten Militants must logically raise the position of the two MPs, Mr David Nellist (Coventry SE) and Mr Terry Fields (Broadgreen) who do not deny supporting Militant, whatever may be their response to charges of "membership" (the offence, with expulsion as its penalty, which is denied by all accused Militant supporters). There are members of the Shadow Cabinet, and of the Parliamentary Labour Party, who would like the whip to be withdrawn from these MPs. That, however, is most unlikely to happen since Mr Kinnock and the supportive soft left do not wish it, and there is a widespread wish in the party not to embarrass the leader now Labour's election

prospects are improving. Easier targets are the Militants who have been selected as parliamentary candidates, Mr Pat Wall (Bradford N.) and Mr John Bryan (Bermondsey). Their position may also be raised in the NEC tomorrow.

Yet the root of the matter is not so much the expulsion of this or that Militant adherent in local government, the withdrawal of the Whip from Militant MPs, or even the refusal of NEC endorsement for Militant parliamentary candidates. It is rather the willingness of the NEC to tackle the composition of local constituency party organisations where these have been captured by Militant entryists. Even to disband Liverpool District (City) Labour Party, which consists of delegates from the constituency parties which determine the selection of future MPs, would achieve nothing unless the composition of the constituency parties as such can be rescued from the infiltrators.

Disbandment does seem to be on the agenda of the NEC tomorrow. But of course even if it were decided that this was appropriate for Liverpool (no constituency party has been compulsorily disbanded and reformed since the Sixties) there would remain the wider Trotskyist infiltration, which is much more prevalent than the Militant label. In London, for instance, where Militant is of comparatively little significance, a virtually identical form of leftism (Mr Ted Knight's and Mr Bernie Grant's for instance) flourishes under various other kinds of nomenclature.

Mr Kinnock has made a start on Labour's threat from the hard left, and should be commended for it. But his attack on the Liverpool infiltrators merely touches the tip of an iceberg. His and the softer left's attack on the strictly restricted definition of Militant "members" has also to be recognized as a useful distraction from the more general influence of the deeper left in Labour politics.

THE END OF THE MARCOS AGE

Rarely can a nation's predicament have been expressed more poignantly than in the scenes from the Philippines at the weekend. Ferdinand Marcos sending his tanks against the rebel leaders from one quarter of Manila; the two rebel leaders under guard in another; and between them the people, thousands of them, stopping the tanks in their tracks.

Those scenes alone make the fall of the self-proclaimed President as urgent as it is inevitable. For the Philippines, the post-Marcos age has already been born. Only the nature of its baptism has still to be decided. Will it be the fire of civil war or the water of a new beginning?

Developments so far have encouraged the hope that extensive violence can be avoided. The civilian opposition, led by Mrs Corason Aquino, has steadfastly eschewed the use of force. The military opposition, in the figures of General Ramos and former Defence Minister Enrile, has advocated a non-violent approach. If discipline is upheld - and the involvement of senior military figures in the opposition makes this - there is every prospect of a speedy handover of power to a non-Marcos government.

It is then that the problems begin. In opposition to Marcos, a broad coalition has emerged. It has united sections of the armed forces and business communities who see no future for themselves in a Mar-

cos-led Philippines. It has united the anti-Marcos middle classes, and the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church, who campaigned against the corruption of the Marcos rule. And the Americans found themselves compelled, albeit belatedly, to join in.

But these are disparate groups, with disparate interests; the removal of Marcos their one common purpose. Without him, they have no unifying objective. It will take a spirit of compromise and forbearance if a coherent government is to emerge. It will not be possible to satisfy all interests at once.

Nor will it be possible to finish with the Marcos era quite as rapidly and conclusively as many of his opponents would like. Both the rebel military leaders have close links with the past. General Ramos was Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces; indeed, he had just been appointed Chief of Staff by Marcos following the dismissal of General Ver. He is also related to President Marcos. Mr Enrile, although a politically ambitious lawyer, is also a former Defence Minister.

These ties with the past promise a measure of stability and may make it easier for the Americans to accept the transfer of power. But they will not be particularly acceptable - after the euphoria has died down - to those like Mrs Aquino and her supporters

who opposed Marcos throughout.

Yet without the support of the military, or a good part of it, Mrs Aquino's own future as a political leader would look distinctly less promising than it does at present. Her political experience is limited; she has been accused of naivete by her supporters, as well as her opponents. And she will be vulnerable, if not now then in the future, to charges that she too represents only one section of the population - the wealthy middle classes. She will have to show that she is serious about improving the lot of the urban and rural poor (even at the expense of her own family's interests), if she is to retain the support they have invested in her.

The costs of not retaining this support are high, not only for Mrs Aquino - in the likely event of her being proclaimed the election victor - but for all the groups represented in the anti-Marcos coalition. For the clear and only alternative to such a coalition is political and social chaos: a civil war or a left-wing takeover, more probably, the one leading to the other.

The communists, who boycotted the presidential election and will stand aside from the coalition, may be seen in some quarters as the only group to have kept their integrity, and may benefit accordingly. The most heartening aspect of the whole election fiasco in the Philippines so far is that at the moment this seems so remote a possibility.

Animal experiments

From Dr Michael Balls
Sir, Bishop Agnellus Andrew and his co-signatories (February 22) appear to have misunderstood the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Bill, which last week was given a second reading in the House of Commons, having completed its passage through the House of Lords without a single division.

The Bill contains two major provisions. First, scientists with a personal licence of competence will in future also require a project licence authorising a particular programme of research.

Secondly, in deciding whether a project licence should be granted the Home Secretary will be required to balance the likely adverse effects on the animals to be used against the likely benefit to man and other animals. Thus, although the Bill does not provide for the total prohibition of any procedure currently in use, when enacted it will result in an immediate strengthening of control, since all use of laboratory animals will have to be justified and specifically approved.

Since the 1983 general election the Government has consulted widely, not only during the preparation of two White Papers, but also during the drafting of the Bill, which therefore has considerable support both within and outside Parliament.

Happily, there are grounds for confidence that members of Parliament will concur with the

considered opinion of the FRAME (Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments) trustees "that the goal of reducing the number of animals used for essential purposes, minimising any suffering caused to them, and replacing them with alternatives wherever possible and as quickly as possible, will be better served by supporting the Bill more or less as it stands".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BALLS,
Chairman of Trustees,
Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments,
Eastgate House,
34 Sneyd Street,
Nottingham.
February 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

English misused by engineers

From Professor E.H. Brown and others

Sir, As professors from each of the main fields of engineering in British universities we are concerned at the near-collapse in our schools' teaching of the syntax of English.

The power of our language, for fine distinctions and complex arguments, results only from the systematic teaching of precision, and engineers and scientists are often dismayed to find that the present-day school-leaver cannot adequately wield that power. The emphasis in recent years on free and imaginative writing, excellent in intent, has proved no substitute for a thorough grounding in structure and grammar when exact scientific statements are to be made or when the case for a complicated proposal has to be argued.

It may be said that the modern aim is for creativity, and if so engineers will applaud it. We too admire fine writing; we know that some of the noblest achievements of man - in literature as in engineering - have sprung from the occasional genius who could see beyond the rules and create a new entity. We also know that such individuals number perhaps one in a million. The rest of us must service the civilization we have and earn its daily bread, and in engineering the task requires clear thinking and precise communication.

It may be said that usage evolves, as indeed it does: the rules are for ever shifting. We believe that the changes are slow and peripheral. There exists a

Nursing skills in Saudi Arabia

From Miss Shelagh M. Murphy

Sir, As a principal source of information for Alison Miller's feature on nursing in Saudi Arabia, "Emergency Ward Islam" (February 19), may I clarify one or two points which might otherwise mislead potential visitors to that country.

Having worked as a nurse both in this country and abroad - for two and half years very happily in Saudi Arabia - I can assure you that the nurse, either on or off duty, will be no more subject to sexual harassment in Saudi Arabia than in Great Britain.

The Saudis recognise as well as anybody that their way of life imposes certain restrictions on the European visitor, and the Royal College of Nursing therefore tries to spell out those restrictions for the nurse contemplating working there.

They reflect the fact that religion plays a greater part in the life of the Saudis than of the British: Saudis are therefore more sensitive to actions, words or gestures that transgress or offend their codes of behaviour. But transgression of particular "do's and don'ts" is of much less significance to Saudis than evidence in visitors of courtesy, common sense and sensitivity in approaching a culture different from their own.

It is unfortunately the case that nurses who seek work in Saudi Arabia solely for the financial rewards and who view the environment as something to be put up with rather than adapted to will not enjoy or benefit from the experience.

Yours faithfully,
S.M. MURPHY,
International Secretary,
Royal College of Nursing,
20 Cavendish Square, W1.
February 20.

Merger issues

From Mr J. Camplin

Sir, Sir Michael Edwards (February 19) has it exactly wrong. The reason that such companies as Imperial, Distillers or Plessey look overdue for radical reorganization is precisely that they are representative of the over-concentration of British economic activity in the hands of a relatively small number of companies: the corporation, contrary to popular belief, has a stranglehold over UK business activity to a far greater extent than it has, say, among our American rivals.

Mr Michael's vision of uniform global markets, apparently to be won by some magic formula connected with sheer size, is already backward-looking. The one certain thing about the future, at least in the Western economies, is that fashions, tastes, needs - and hence consumer demands - will change faster than ever before, with regional variations both in details and in timing.

No slow-moving, unadaptable, bureaucratic colossi of the kind Sir Michael would have us create will be able to cope with that. Instead, our energies should be concentrated on educating both the City and businessmen away from merger mania and towards finding the necessary finance for the many creative new ideas in our society. Yours faithfully,
JAMIE CAMPLIN,
10 Church Lane, SW19.
February 20.

From Mr Edgar Palamoutain
Sir, Mr John Hoskyns (February 20) had presumably not seen Sir Michael Edwards's letter of the previous day. Both letters, however, are equally relevant to what is clearly - and understandably -

Aid for charities

From Mr Barry Gifford

Sir, You have recently featured speculation that the Chancellor is considering introducing tax deductions on single donations to charities in his forthcoming Budget. However, VAT has been shown to be an increasing burden for many charities, costing them between £20 million and £25 million each year.

Corporate donations account for a very small percentage of charitable income. Corporate donations to the Royal National Institute for the Blind, for exam-

ple, of which I am finance secretary, would have to increase by 400 to 500 per cent to match the amount they pay in VAT each year - and this increase would have to be guaranteed. No doubt fluctuations in company profits would affect the income of charities.

Commercial companies can recover their VAT: is it not the charities' turn? Yours faithfully,
BARRY GIFFORD,
Executive Chairman,
Charities VAT Reform Group,
24 Gladwyn Road, SW15.
February 21.

This is political economy on a grand scale, calling for the talents - if I may attempt to be evasive in the matter - of a Keynes or a Hayek.

Yours faithfully,
EDGAR PALAMOUNTAIN,
Wider Share Ownership Council,
Juxon House,
94 St Paul's Churchyard, EC4.
February 20.

From Mr J. R. Little
Sir, In your excellent second leading article (February 15) "A boot too far" you point out that penalty place kicks at goal qualifying for three points may be taken wherever on the field they occur.

May I suggest, through your columns, that the authorities consider restricting penalty place kicks at goal to infringements outside a defined area - say the 22 metre line - and for infringements within that area, the side granted the penalty should "run the ball". Scoring should be left as it is at present, rewarding the dropped goal and the conversion of a try in the normal way. Yours faithfully,
J.R. LITTLE,
Little Court,
Drinkstone Park,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk.
February 18.

Most radiographers work single-handed at night in an X-ray department isolated from the rest of the hospital. Indeed a frequent conversation topic in my department is our fear and sense of vulnerability during night duty. Fortunately most, although not all, of our aggressive patients are young males and have an almost superstitious awe about the power and presence of X-rays, so I have on occasion been able to bluff my way out of a difficult situation by explaining that, if they continue to stay in the department, the X-radiation will render them not only sterile but impotent.

This usually persuades them to leave immediately, providing, of course, that they are sober enough to understand the implication of what I have said, but too drunk to realise that it is utter nonsense.

None the less, physical and verbal assault is a fact of life amongst health workers, and so I strongly support Dr Thurston's plea for more money to be made available to provide better security for all night duty staff, including the lonely radiographer. Yours faithfully,
JUDITH A. ORMDROD,
11 Valley Close,
Colden Common,
Winchester,
Hampshire.
February 13.

From Ms Judith A. Ormrod
Sir, as a radiographer working in an accident and emergency hospital I read with interest the letter from Dr J. G. B. Thurston (February 12) concerning violent attacks on hospital staff, and particularly noted the incident concerning the radiographer. Luckily for her, a nursing sister, despite having a broken arm, came to her rescue.

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ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 25 1861

In 1866, when the government of London is about to change, it may be as well to look back 125 years.

Then the heart of the ever-growing empire was governed in a fashion little removed from medieval. About 50 parishes were administered by elected vestries, which remained in office even when the London County Council was constituted in January, 1889. The London Government Act of 1889 abolished the vestries, replacing them by a number of boroughs. The LCC was itself replaced by the Greater London Council in 1965 when it then appeared that the suggestion in "The Times" leading article of a "red Metropolitan Common Council" had been fulfilled - although the Metropolitan Mayor "had to be content with the more prosaic title of Chairman of the GLC."

LONDON'S GOVERNMENT

The House of Commons has appointed a Committee to inquire into the Local Government of the Metropolis. They are about to discover that there is a Corporation of the City of London, and a Metropolitan Board of Works; that there are two belligerent bodies of police with hostile frontiers, and that there are litigious and squabbling parochial bodies in a state of perpetual contest against some requisition. They are, in fact, about to discover that the Metropolis has no Local Government whatever. Riding or walking, no man can look about him in this metropolis without becoming immediately convinced that it has no Local Government whatever. No doubt, there are all sorts of industrious people latent in different parts of the great labyrinth who are performing duties of an official character. If a man steals your watch and you, beg a policeman to run after him, even if that policeman should shake his head and say he cannot follow him on the other side of the street, yet, if you will follow him yourself and drag him to a police-office, there is a magistrate there who will commit him. If you should be told, however, that a magistrate is the LORD MAYOR of the City of London, you would believe it. He is no more LORD MAYOR of the City of London than the Grand Duke of Baden is Emperor of Germany. London is the most tremendous aggregate of wealth, intelligence, and population which exists upon this earth; he is the administrator of a few districts, consisting of a certain number of warehouses and offices and shops and public buildings. When he speaks of the metropolis, he stole your watch he is doing part of his real duty, but when he puts on a gold chain and a dress of ceremony, and affects to represent this great London, he is acting under a delusion successive in his office; and he is just as much an innocent impostor as the gentleman in Bedlam who declares that he is the GREAT MOGUL. London has no Local Government, and it requires no Committee of the House of Commons to convince us of that fact.

Yet this great city might be supposed to be worthy of a government. The Metropolis of England might be expected to have a head and a voice and a corporate existence. It is scarcely decent that such a mass of wealth and power should be so completely unintelligent in the world. It is left to be gross an inconvenience, that foreigners insist upon assuming some one to be the representative of this vast province of houses and streets and three millions of inhabitants. They take the LORD MAYOR, who is territorially a very much less important metropolitan official than the Chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Works, and who is a foreign Sovereign pays a visit, or if any expression of public sentiment is to be made, we are obliged to look to the LORD MAYOR and the Aldermen and Common Councilmen to do the proper acts of civility, or express the common feeling. We know very well that they only represent a certain number of streets which were once enclosed within certain old walls, the memory of which has long since perished. We know that they are only the delegates of a few Livermen, whose views may vary possibly be entirely at variance with those of the great Metropolis itself; but it is the only organization we have, and we are compelled to make use of it. The foreign Sovereign is obliged to make believe, as he sits beside the MAYOR and the Aldermen and the Common Councilmen, that he is accepting the hospitality of the City of London; the Ambassador is bound to declare that the proudest moment of his life has arrived when he is presented with that gold box in which is contained the freedom of the City of London, and the Ministers are, at least annually, obliged to go through the solemn farce of pretending to speak to a proportionally small clique of altogether unimportant persons, and to address them as the merchants of the City of London.

Yours faithfully,
C. D. GEORGALAKIS,
The Georgakakis Partnership,
Architects and Interior Designers,
Ditchling Common,
Burgess Hill, Sussex.

From Mr C. D. Georgakakis
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THE ARTS

Television
Sadistic
society

In some flip sleeve-notes for the *Beyond the Fringe* LP we are told that Jonathan Miller "dislikes" spinach and is frightened by the idea of being tortured. The information which he never had in the first place. It is the kind of half-humorous, half-horrorful, half-erotic, half-sadistic characteristic of Dr Miller and, last night, in Channel 4's *Survive Torture and Interrogation*, we were soberly confronted by the real thing.

Maria, a South American fine arts lecturer, was subjected to ten days of excruciating electrical torment to make her reveal information she never possessed. The Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky spent 18½ years in psychiatric institutions, allegedly insane, but actually refusing all inducements to conform to his country's required ideological pattern. In Vietnam a captured US Special Forces officer called Nick Rowe was subjected to five years of old-fashioned sadism in an ultimately fruitless bid to persuade him to give names and information.

All three prisoners faced a comparable cycle of punishment and reward, pain and special pleading, real brutality and bogus, tantalising sympathy. Each spoke of the facility of feigning bravery, of the importance of keeping a corner of one's mind free from the otherwise wholesale invasion of pain and terror, of accepting the possibility of death, of some rather clinical and detached understanding of what was being done to them.

Torture is, of course, simply one of the nastier and more squalid manifestations of that basic intolerance which seems genetically built into the human race. We find the instinct in every school playground, although not, one hopes, the refined, self-justifying extremity. Until recently, the greatest experts in anatomy and medical science were professional interrogators, not doctors. The desire to hurt was more practical and effective than the desire to heal. And, if the torturers themselves are pervers and sadists, we must remember that they are, in a sense, the elected representatives of the larger ideologies which produce them.

Andrew Rissik

Opera
Festive Rossini

Otello
La Fenice, Venice

Carnival time in Venice: an excuse to dress up on both sides of the curtain, and a chance to see a different Venice — the Venice of Rossini's *Otello*. Unlike the Verdi opera written more than half a century later, the work of the 24-year-old Rossini takes place entirely in the lagoon city, and it quickly becomes clear how little he knew or cared for Shakespeare. Indeed, as one Rossini expert has pointed out, the opera that was effectively killed off by Verdi's *Otello* would have done better if the three most famous characters had been given names like Riccardo, Argiria and Faliero instead of Otello, Desdemona and Iago.

In recent years the Rossini adaptation has shown signs of stirring from its grave — both Camden and Wexford have seen it, though not yet Pesaro. The musical invention is of patchy quality, depending for the most part on the usual mixture of Rossinian *fretta* and a prodigious display of vocalità.

If you can accept these terms, and banish Verdi from your mind, then Rossini's *Otello* is in business, especially if it has Jean-Pierre Ponnelle and Roderick Brydon as its advocates. In their hands, indeed, the work comes brilliantly to life. Ponnelle is quick to point out that Rossini is dealing not in tragedy but in melodrama — at least in Acts I and II, and certainly in the jocular overture.

Here and in the first scene, we are treated to the sight of an early 19th-century steamship model puffing its way across the stage, as the victorious Moor sails home to boast of his triumphs, receive the polite applause of the Venetian court and claim the hand of Desdemona.

The setting is inspired by the Venetian masquerade, and architectural motifs of Rossini's lifetime, all of which act as a platform for the clearly-drawn symmetry of Ponnelle's stagecraft. The brilliant whiteness and simplicity of the décor are, after all, only a reflection of the drama, in which Rossini has succeeded in laundering out all credible or profound human feeling.

Only in the third act, in which Rossini's librettist suddenly reverts to Shakespeare and the composer himself casts the spell of tragedy in the

Four years ago Michael Rudman left his job at the National Theatre; but all is forgiven and tonight he returns, directing *Brighton Beach Memoirs*: interview by Sheridan Morley

Lure of the perfect song to sing

Brighton Beach Memoirs, Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical account of his teenage family life, described in Saturday's *Times*, brings the most commercially successful of all Broadway dramatists to the National Theatre for the first time tonight. It also brings back to the National the American-born director Michael Rudman, who spent the late Seventies and early Eighties there as an NT associate in charge of the Lyttelton stage. There is indeed a certain irony in that his return, after four years principally spent marrying Felicity Kendal and directing *Dustin Hoffman* in the Broadway *Death of a Salesman* and Richard Harris in the rather less successful *London Camelot*, now coincides with the announcement that Rudman's old Oxford and Hampstead partner David Aukin is to join the National in September as executive director, a job which puts him in precisely the same line of succession from which Rudman abruptly departed in 1982.

At least, the certain irony is there if you happen to be observing the situation from the outside with no more than a casual interest in how the National plays its power games; if you happen to be Rudman, there would seem to be nothing but cautious delight at Aukin's move to the South Bank.

"As soon as I heard the news I sent David a bunch of roses saying congratulations and I hope he doesn't find the thorns. I spent three years on the staff here and I'm very glad to be back with this new play. I wasn't fired, and I didn't quit exactly. What happened was that Peter Hall changed the system, from one of directors of stages to one of directors of companies. I

didn't want to run a group. I wanted to run a stage: that was what I had always done at Hampstead and before that at the Traverse. Instead, I found I was spending more and more of my time on committees and it seemed time for a change. I think we were both right: Peter was right to change the system and I was right to leave. But part of the arrangement was that I'd return to direct if I could find the right play, and as soon as I saw *Brighton Beach Memoirs* on Broadway I knew it was the one I wanted to do."

At that time Rudman was working there on the Dustin Hoffman *Salesman*, and I wondered if perhaps he had seen in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* a lighter reflection of that same world. "A lot of Neil Simon's best-known plays are about two people talking, whether it's the *Sunshine Boys* or the *Odd Couple*; here you have a play about a family and about a country. It's one of those rare occasions where a playwright has found the perfect song to sing: only Simon could have written this play, because so much of it is only really about him growing up. That was the first reason I wanted to do it; the second was that I couldn't get into a matinee after it had been on Broadway for two years. It's the little things like that which give you a hint about possible success."

As an American who has worked almost exclusively in the English theatre since he left Oxford in 1964, Rudman might also be thought to have a certain advantage in directing Simon.

"Not necessarily: Texas is a long way from Brighton Beach. I think any English director who had done a David Storey play could do this one. Besides which, I no

longer really think of myself as Texan or indeed American: when I was working on the Broadway *Death of a Salesman* the cast there would solemnly take me out to coffee bars and tell me what it meant to be American, and I guess it was around then I thought perhaps I didn't have a country of my own any more."

Apart from an introduction to marriage and the life of a freelance director — on both sides of the Atlantic, these last four non-National years have also seen another change in Rudman's activities.

"When I came to the National David Aukin took over from me at Hampstead, and for his fortieth birthday I sent him just what he had always wanted, the first act of a new play by an unknown author. Me. He rang to ask how soon he could have Act II and I told him about twenty minutes. Tom Stoppard taught me that: always send the first act first and alone. It arouses curiosity if nothing else. Anyway David liked *Short List* enough to stage it. Some of the critics also liked it very much."

At this point there develops an extremely long pause in the interview. Mr Rudman and I (and indeed Mr Aukin) started out together some 26 years ago as students in college productions of which Mr Rudman was usually the director. Since that time I have had occasion to review Mr Rudman's work on what I would guess to be several dozen first nights. I would estimate that somewhere between 70 and 80 per cent of those reviews have been essentially favourable.

Of them, neither Mr Rudman nor I seem to recall a great deal. What however he can recall, with alarming accuracy, is a blow-by-blow ac-

count of every even remotely uncharitable paragraph I have ever written about him, and *Short List* was apparently in this latter grouping. But what makes this total recall so deeply unnerving, indeed almost Pinteresque, is that Mr Rudman does not appear to be actually challenging the reviews, or the right to have printed them. He merely quotes them back at you, verbatim, and then waits for you to say something. I have taken now to commenting at these junctures on the weather and the cut of his suits, which would seem to be getting sharper with middle age.

No sooner had he turned playwright than the offer of *Camelot* came along. "That was a very confusing experience, especially for Richard Harris who had done the show four hundred times on the road in America and understandably saw no reason to change it for London. What made it all much worse was that Harris had never really rehearsed the show with a director, even in America: he had just stepped in on the road for an ailing Richard Burton, taught himself to do it and then gone on doing it. So to have someone suddenly tell him how to do it thoroughly surprised him. He did however remain very amiable, at least until we got the reviews and no houses. After that he started demanding cuts. I began to feel like the Duke of York, marching four hundred chorus boys up to the top of different hills and then down again every night to no apparent purpose."

So, within a year of leaving the National, Rudman had written a play, got re-married and directed his first Broadway musical. He had also started to audition American



actors for the Broadway *Death of a Salesman*.

"Welcome to my honeymoon, I told them, but nothing seems to surprise people any more. Least of all me. When I first went to talk to Dustin about *Willy Loman* he was wearing pearls and a cocktail dress, because *Tootsie* was being filmed and he liked to stay in character. I'd already done the Miller play with two very funny men, John Neville at Nottingham and Warren Mitchell at the National, and Hoffman is in

that comic tradition which is so valuable for Willy Loman. What's more, all the cast had also done the play before somewhere, so it was like a homecoming. You only have to announce Dustin Hoffman on Broadway and they queue all night: he's almost like a pop star, but theatregoers aren't dumb: they've grown with him across a lot of very good movies and they just know he can deliver in a way that most film stars actually can't."

Though there are plans for another West End play after

Brighton Beach Memoirs (he has *The Dragon's Tail* still at the Apollo with Penelope Keith) it is clear that Rudman has not yet totally adjusted to the freelance life: "I had three and a half years at Nottingham, three at the Traverse, five at Hampstead, three at the Lyttelton. I like a base. If you're freelance, it is that much harder to choose a line of work. On the other hand, the joy of working here at the National without having to go to all those meetings is tremendous."

Galleries

All prepared for the swings of fashion

Forty Years of Modern Art 1945-1985
Tate

Often the most improvised shows can be the most revealing. *Forty Years of Modern Art*, at the Tate until April 27, was not quite thought up yesterday. But, by the time it became evident that the new Tate galleries would not be open now, as had been hoped, it was much too late to get together a major loan exhibition to fill the hiatus in the Tate's programmes. Instead it was decided to mount a show entirely from stock which would at once constitute a sort of tribute to Ronald Alley, Keeper of the Modern Collection, on his retirement and provide a sort of conspectus of art of the postwar years, as reflected in the Tate's acquisitions under Mr Alley.

In fairness to modern art, it is necessary to remember that one gallery's acquisitions, even if shown *in toto*, could never hope to be comprehensive and subtly balanced. In fairness to the Tate, it is necessary to remember that this, anyway, is only one man's selection, though the selection of a very influential one.

Still, it is revealing to get some general notion of what the Tate has from these difficult years, and especially what it has hidden away. Many will no doubt be astonished at what a good showing the Tate's holding of classic American Abstract Expressionist painting makes.

We know there is that extraordinary Rothko installation of nine canvases (a pity that this show allows for only seven of them), but it is still unexpected what good examples of the other major figures are present, with perhaps only a really important mature Pollock needed to clinch the effect. While it is natural that a British collection of modern art would have a fair representation of Fifties "kitchen-sink" realism, it says much for the taste of the time that the Tate acquired such superior examples of the genre as John Bratby's *Window*, *Self Portrait*, *Jean and Hands* (1957, acquired the same year) and Jack Smith's intense, muted *Mother Bathing Child*, not to mention a really good (one of the few, some might say) contemporary "social" Guttuso's *The Discussion* (1959-60).

Similar surprises come up with very different kinds of painting a couple of rooms on. Just fancy the Tate having (long unhung in most cases) prime examples of such French favourites of the Fifties as the lyrical abstractionists and tachistes Manessier, Souleas, Poliakoff, Ropelle and Hartung (if not all exactly French, at least Ecole de Paris), nearly all bought hot off the easel. Probably they should have struck sooner to buy great De Staëls, but they have ended up with three beauties. And this group collectively does give us a yardstick with which to measure later, still controversial acquisitions, like Carl Andre's notorious *Equivalent VIII* — the "bricks" to you.

Such a national collection has a duty to be representative, and as far as possible avoid censoring anything out of the story just because none of the purchasing body actually likes it. Probably people at the Tate liked Manessier and Ropelle in the Fifties; probably they stopped liking them in the Sixties. But the paintings remained significant of something which had happened and should be recorded. And now they are still there, ready for the moment — maybe now — when people start to like them again.

Putting together such a collection is a conundrum to which there can only be wrong answers — with the added problem that we are seldom qualified to recognize the important errors of commission and omission until it is at least 20 years too late. I may wonder, for instance, why there is a whole room of Dubuffet, since I do not like Dubuffet, but someone else might say the same about Rothko, where I would not dream of questioning. The status of many conceptual works of the Seventies, or of the recently fashionable Penck, Schnabel, Chia and Baselitz, or the more campy photographic work, has still to be determined. We can fairly jib at some of the individual choices made; why this, when for the same money you could have had that, or two of these, or a set of those? But ultimately we never know what is eventually going to gladden us with its presence.

John Russell Taylor



Superior example of the "kitchen-sink" genre: Jack Smith's intense, muted *Mother Bathing Child*

LSO/
Shostakovich
Barbican

A fearsomely precise performance of Shostakovich's First Violin Concerto revealed once again the nerveless technical assurance which has made Viktoriya Mullova such a hot property since her well-publicized emigration to America two years ago. The stratospheric harmonic which ends the opening movement could not have been faded with a steadier bow: the Scherzo's ever-changing rhythmic emphases were impeccably observed; and the celebrated cadenza bridging Passacaglia and Finale was delivered as an increasingly swift whirl of exactly-tuned double-stoppings.

These were just three instances of Mullova's all-pervasive virtuosity. But equally evident, sadly, was her constricted emotional response to the power at her fingers' command. For all the intrinsic velvety beauty of her tonal quality her interpretation of the Nocturne, for instance, had a grey, impersonal aspect unsuited to the music's intense introspection. A severe platform manner is perfectly acceptable, but in this case one feels that hidden fires do not burn within.

Perhaps, though, it is unfair to judge Mullova by this performance. For any attempt by her to charge the sinuous melodies with a degree of passionate flexibility was doomed to be thwarted by Maxim Shostakovich's unre-

sponsive and rather mediocre conducting. His inability to keep orchestra and soloist together through several straightforward passages in the Passacaglia wreaked havoc on his father's subtle mesh of harmonic tension.

At least the spectacle of Shostakovich junior conducting Shostakovich has curiosity value, whereas his direction of Wagner's *Rienzi* Overture and Mahler's First Symphony seemed fairly bereft of positive qualities. Bombastic gestures, coarse orchestral imbalances, flustering ensemble and a distinct impression that the LSO was guiding its conductor and not vice versa: these were the evening's hallmarks. Shostakovich frequently succeeded in working himself into a frenzy of irrelevant flourishes, but they had no discernible effect on the course of the music.

Richard Morrison

Borodin Quartet
Elizabeth Hall

At the end of the opening concert in their new series of the complete Shostakovich string quartets, the Borodin Quartet were joined on stage by the Fitzwilliam Quartet for a rare performance of Shostakovich's Op 11 Two Pieces for String Octet. The four elder statesmen in their navy lounge suits, face to face with the four in midnight-blue velvet, made a nice sartorial emblem of the occasion and its place in performing history.

Concerts

When, in the year of Shostakovich's death, the young Fitzwilliam recorded the complete quartets, it was as if a new biography of the composer had been written. Now, just over 10 years later, another recorded tome has just been released, and is being serialized live in seven parts.

Both the Borodin (whose viola and cello, as original members, played each quartet to the composer as it was written) and the Fitzwilliam, who knew Shostakovich in his last years, play as if with the imprimatur. For the Borodin the responsibility, it seems, lies heavy. They approach to the Third Quartet, quintessential middle-period Shostakovich, was to turn such hard, concentrated light on to the work's own furrowed brow that a dark shadow was cast over their own character and performance.

Interpretative gloss was toned to matt-finish: strictly regulated rubato in the opening double fugue, deceptively cool understatement of Shostakovich's minutely indicated dynamic markings, even an insistence on stubborn ugliness as one voice rushes against another in the laconic waltz and rough-carved adagio.

It is a provocative approach and one which challenges our understanding of the very nature of Shostakovich's tones and their relationship to one another. In the brief, simple of the First Quartet, too, so fine in its balance, so fragile in its tempo shifts, the Borodin indicated something

of the stern demands they will be making during the next month not only of themselves but of their audiences too.

Hilary Finch

Alfred Brendel
Festival Hall

Despite the torrent of coughing that accompanied him (when will audiences heed this tedious recurrent complaint?) Alfred Brendel commemorated the centenary of Liszt's death with a typically superlative recital consisting of the first and second, or Swiss and Italian, *Années de pèlerinage*. Truc: you might have been able to criticize him for not sticking to the letter of the text in places. He took liberties in the very opening bars of the first piece in the Swiss collection, "Chapelle de Guillaume Tell", for example, balancing the texture firmly in the favour of his right hand and allowing chords to reverberate through rests. But in the face of the searching poetic conviction with which he played both this and the rest of the cycle any such technical arguments are rendered impotent.

He weaves his spells not least through the array of colours he can command. Even in something as apparently innocuous as the quiet rippling accompaniment in "Au Lac de Wallenstadt" each note was invested with infinite care, while the pedalling and weighting of the stormy double octaves in "Orage" was

calculated to give a vivid mood-picture without threatening perception of individual pitches.

Details in the Italian collection were equally carefully considered. There was abundant gaiety in Brendel's baroque-flavoured double-dotted in the "Canzonetta del Salvatore Rossa", for example, while the pensive, world-weary atmosphere of "Il pèlerino" was captured perfectly by his enigmatically doleful singing tone, and he conjured an aromatic exoticism in "Sposalizio". It was a pleasant surprise to hear the sprawling "Après Une Lecture de Dante" hold together so well, too, with no trace of panic in its formidable closing pages. But what impressed above all was that both cycles, for all their variety, really seemed like cycles, each a continuous stream of reflections upon external stimuli. How better to illustrate the Romantic ideal?

Stephen Pettitt

'And Almighty God touched me with His little finger and said: "Write for the theatre — mind well, only for the theatre!" And I have obeyed the supreme command.'

Puccini.

Wyndham's Theatre from February 28



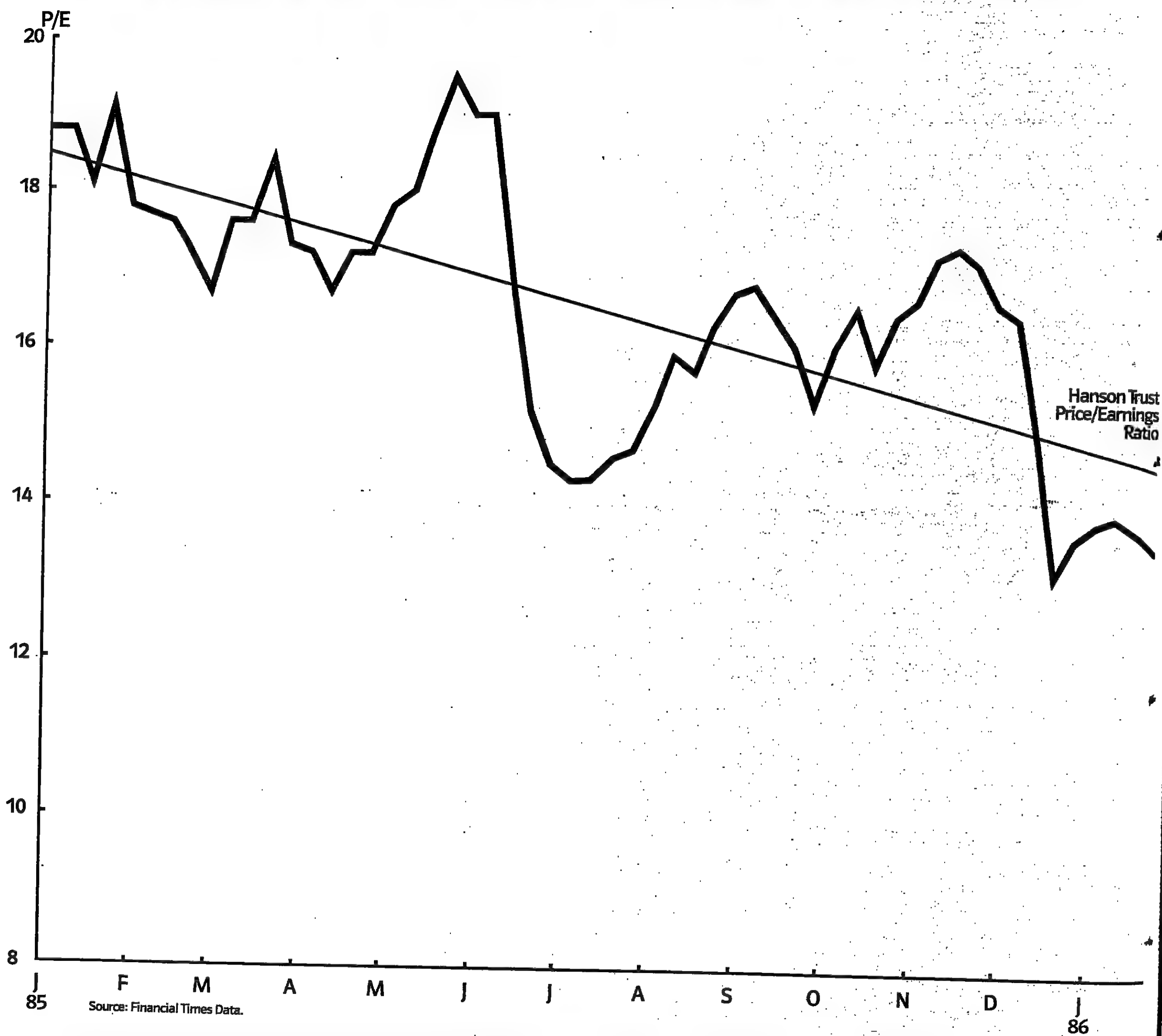
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James Croux
Patricia Hayes
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We always thought Hanson would climb down in the end.



The reason for Hanson Trust's ever-growing appetite is clear. Over the last twelve months, its price/earnings ratio has come down with a bump.

Yet Hanson's current share price still reflects a p/e ratio higher than that justified by the industries in which it operates.

Therefore, only if Hanson's growth rate can be maintained is it likely that the erosion of its premium rating can be arrested.

In the absence of adequate organic growth, growth through acquisition is the only answer. Again.

But is the City beginning to have its doubts?

As the Guardian put it: "Rightly or wrongly, Hanson Trust is perceived by the financial markets as a bicycle that has to be pedalled hard to stop wobbling." (8.1.86).

Certainly, Hanson's share price is no evidence of market confidence: since January 1985, Hanson shares have underperformed the FT All-Share Index by 21% (2nd January 1985 - 21st February 1986).

Has Hanson's price/earnings ratio simply climbed down? Or could it be over the hill?



The sources for the information contained in this advertisement are company accounts and the Stock Exchange Daily Official List as well as the letters from the Chairman, Imperial Group plc to shareholders dated 16th January and 13th February 1986. The directors of Imperial Group plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed are fair and accurate. The directors accepted responsibility accordingly.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Strong pound and rate cut hope send shares soaring

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound and share prices rose strongly yesterday, despite renewed oil price weakness. Money market interest rates edged down and City dealers expect a reduction in base rates close to the Budget next month.

The pound's average value, measured by the sterling index, rose 0.4 to 74.9, continuing its recovery from the winter lows. Most of this was due to sterling's strength against a shaky dollar. The pound gained 1.8 cents to \$1.4635.

Its rise, and the prospect of lower base rates helped shares, with strong gains across the board. The FT 30-share index rose 19.2 points to a record close of 1275.2. The wider FT-SE 100 share index rose 15 points to 1533.

Shares were also helped by

optimistic reports from the Confederation of British Industry and the London Business School. They said that industry generally, and exports in particular, will benefit from the sharp fall in world oil prices.

Sterling appears to have acquired some immunity to news of lower oil prices. It held steady against the European currencies and rose against the dollar yesterday despite a drop to below \$14 a barrel in the price of Brent crude for March delivery.

The dollar now appears to be the main victim of lower oil prices, mainly because of market concern over the exposure of the US banking system to the domestic energy sector, and oil producing economies. In addition, there remain market expectations of lower

American interest rates, either through a reduction in the budget deficit or a weaker performance for the economy. Foreign exchange dealers believe that the dollar's fall has gathered a momentum which shows no sign, as yet, of abating.

One change is that the mark, rather than the yen, has become the main beneficiary of dollar weakness. This is mainly because of statements from the Bank of Japan intended to limit the yen's rise against the dollar. Yesterday, the mark rose more than a penny to 2.28 against the dollar.

With the pressure off the pound, money market dealers came to its defence, although most believe the Chancellor will wait until

around Budget Day, March 18, before sanctioning a base rate cut. Lower base rates have frequently been used as a Budget sweetener in recent years. Three-month interbank rate fell ¼ point to 12¼-12½ per cent yesterday.

An analysis published yesterday by the American Express Bank suggests that the pound is at about the right level against the dollar but is still too high against the mark and French franc.

The Amex Bank Review says an appropriate level for the pound against the dollar, based on relative inflation rates, is \$1.43.

However, against the mark, the pound's correct purchasing power parity level is DM2.81, 18 per cent below yesterday's level of DM3.34.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

An Exco dilemma for the Bank of England

The proposed merger between Morgan Grenfell and Exco International, for all the financial sense it appears to make, could still run into the immovable wall of Bank of England rules.

The O'Brien rule, which came into existence in the late 1970s, limits the involvement of banks in money broking houses. The original limit was 5 per cent, but this was raised to a maximum 10 per cent involvement in 1984 so that it did not accidentally prevent acquisitions or mergers which were otherwise perfectly acceptable.

On the face of it, the Morgan Grenfell-Exco merger requires the Bank either to abolish the rule or make this merger an exception to it. The Bank was taking a hard line yesterday, however. "The rule was introduced primarily because the market wanted it," a spokesman said—so abolition looks unlikely. The spokesman added ominously: "It is unlikely that the Bank can make an exception in particular cases."

Divesting Exco's money broking activities would bring a much reduced company with about £350 million in cash to the merchant bank. But apart from providing Morgan Grenfell with extra capital, such a divestment would destroy much of the commercial logic of the merger.

Morgan might try building some elaborate and remarkably high Chinese walls within the merged company to soothe the Bank's feelings. More likely it would abandon thoughts of Exco and seek other ways of expanding its capital base to the size needed to be a major player in international capital and securities markets.

The other threat to the deal, resistance by Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat—the Singapore businessman who holds more than a quarter of Exco's shares—currently looks less dangerous.

Exco is holding a board meeting today which is likely to clarify Tan Sri Khoo's position. He may indeed be intending to bid for Exco himself, but he must know that he would face the hostility of the whole board if he did so. If he does, he will have missed the opportunity to buy the company for much less than it will now cost. After all, he bought his Exco stake last year for about 190p compared to the present price of 240p.

He may well choose the line of least resistance and take his profit, or he may choose to stay in the enlarged company with his holding diluted to around 11 per cent. Morgan Grenfell and the Bank of England would be happy to have him along at that figure, but would be unhappy to see his holding much beyond that.

One thing, though, is clear. If the deal does fall through there will be considerable disappointment in the stock market where the prospect of a merger and the chance to invest in the combined group was received with enthusiasm.

The fit of business—Exco's broking and Far Eastern interests allied with Morgan Grenfell's banking strengths—makes sense, as does the prospect of extra capital for the bank. There is also a feeling that the deal would at last supply Exco with strong and imaginative leadership, which it seems to have lacked since John Gunn's resignation last year.

SE acts to plug the leaks

The Stock Exchange, as part of its preparations for the big bang on October 27, has turned its attention to the ever-ticklish subject of news management. It has issued a document outlining its proposed Company News Service which will make available on an electronic database all announcements by quoted companies. But it carries a nasty sting for the public relations fraternity, or at least for those of them who pride themselves on their skills at releasing information on a selective basis to what they hope will be their client's best advantage.

It has long been a cardinal principle of the Stock Exchange that all material information about quoted companies should be available to all interested parties simultaneously. This has, however, been honoured more in the breach than the observance, particularly in the past year when those involved in hostile takeover bids have made use of almost any weapon that might aid their cause. The carefully planted news leak has become standard artillery.

In launching its new electronic service the Stock Exchange has taken the opportunity to crack down on this practice.

Now, according to the CNS document, "precisely laid down procedures should be adopted and adhered to". Companies are not to

be allowed to plead that their PR acted on his own initiative, because the responsibility is being laid on the companies themselves "to retain absolute control of unpublished news at all times". If there were persistent continuing breaches of the rules, the company would be asked "to review the appointment of the particular agent".

It is unclear what would happen if such a review resulted in the agent's services nevertheless being retained. The Stock Exchange's ultimate sanction is to withdraw the company's listing, but that is open to the objection that it is a crude and unwieldy punishment. In today's rapidly changing climate, some companies might even retaliate by suing the authorities.

But neither side would wish to become involved in such an unseemly public brawl. Reputable companies will wish to be seen to be complying with the new guidelines. And that can only mean that some of the more adventurous PRs will have to rethink their tactics. The conspiracy of interest among clients, PRs and, let us be frank, journalists, will make it difficult to stamp out the practice of leaking entirely. But if some of the worst excesses are curbed then it is possible that takeover bids and other contentious matters will be considered both more calmly and constructively.

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1275.2 (+19.2)

FT-SE 100 1532.8 (+14.8)

USM (Datastream) 115.67 (+1.22)

THE POUND

US dollar 1.4612 (+1.61)

W German mark 3.3453

Trade-weighted 74.9 (+0.4)

Saatchi in US deal

Saatchi and Saatchi, the fast growing advertising group, is buying Dancer Fitzgerald Sample, one of America's largest advertising agencies, for a minimum of \$75 million (£51 million).

The purchase is being made by Dorland, a UK subsidiary of Saatchi. The combination of the two will create a new international network to be called DFS Dorland worldwide. DFS Dorland will be the sixteenth largest advertising agency in the world.

McAlpine up

Alfred McAlpine, formerly Marchwiel, the building group, lifted pretax profits to £23.05 million in the year to October 31, up from £22.64 million. Turnover improved from £340 million to £393 million and the final dividend is raised from 7.5p to 8.7p, making 12.5p for the full year.

Times, page 19

Vickers rise

Vickers, the Rolls-Royce Motors company, lifted profits from £30.8 million to £45.1 million before tax in the year to December 31. Turnover was up from £529 million to £611 million and the total dividend is raised from 10p to 13p.

Times, page 19

Berisford fall

Pretax profits at S&W Berisford, the commodity trader, fell from £80.2 million to £52.9 million for the year to September 30, on turnover up from £5.70 billion to £7.29 billion.

Times, page 19

Tilbury stake

Tilbury Group has increased its stake in West's Group to 31.55 per cent with the purchase of a further 400,000 shares at 117p.

Lifeline link

Tunstall Telecom Group and Boots have announced a joint marketing programme for Tunstall Lifeline. Tunstall's new emergency communications service for the elderly and disabled.

Shares deal

Morgan Grenfell, deemed to be acting in concert with the Rank Organisation, has bought 3.1 million Granada shares at 292½p a share. Rank and those acting in concert now own 25.2 million Granada shares, about 5.2 per cent of the issued capital.

Cash deadline

Coats Patons shareholders are being told that acceptances of the cash alternative for the merger with Vantona Virella must be received by 3pm on March 10. If the recommended offer on behalf of Vantona is then unconditional as to acceptances, the cash alternative will not be extended.

BSC sale

British Steel Corporation and Davy Corporation have reached agreement in principle under which the Distinction engineering contracting business at Workington, Cumbria—part of the forges, foundries and engineering group of BSC Holdings—will be acquired by Davy for about £1.5 million.

Rand rises

The rand rose to 50.25 US cents in Johannesburg, its first rise above 50 cents since the country's financial crisis broke last July. The recovery was due to the weakness of the dollar and recent moves to reschedule South Africa's foreign debt.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	12½%
Adam & Company	12½%
BCCI	12½%
Citybank Savings	12½%
Consolidated Crds	12½%
Continental Trust	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%
C. Hoare & Co	12½%
Lloyds Bank	12½%
Nat Westminster	12½%
Royal Bank of Scotland	12½%
TSB	12½%
Citybank NA	12½%

† Mortgage Base Rate

Opec retreats on output control battle with UK

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's opposition to co-operation with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to control oil output and world free market prices appears to have been finally accepted by the oil producers' cartel yesterday.

Opec's attitude to Britain's refusal to co-operate on output control has also been tempered by Saudi Arabia's embarrassment that it has completed a \$4 billion arms-for-oil contract with Britain.

North Sea oil prices fell to their lowest since spot market trading started 10 years ago, and then began to increase for long-term orders after signs from Saudi Arabia that it will modify the hard line it has taken against Britain's oil.

Prices for North Sea Brent crude fell to nearly \$13 a barrel yesterday in some early dealing, but later climbed back to \$14.50.

It also appears that Opec has abandoned attempts to



Peter Walker: no change in government policy

persuade Britain to change its policy on oil production and co-operate with the mainly Middle Eastern producers to control output and therefore prices.

Saudi Arabia has been backing from other Opec members to call a meeting of non-Opec oil producers in Geneva next month after the emergency

ministerial meeting to resolve output quotas in the cartel.

In the past, Opec has attempted to persuade non-member producers to co-operate on pricing and output policies by sending high-level delegations. It has now decided to invite oil ministers from non-member countries to come to its ministerial session, but has left Britain off the invitation list.

The British Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, has met most Opec oil ministers individually over the past six months and constantly explained that the Government will not change its policy of leaving North Sea oil output up to the oil companies involved.

The view now emerging within Opec is that all attempts to make Britain and, to a lesser extent, Norway scapegoats for the organization's problems have failed and attention will be switched to other oil producers such as Mexico, Oman and Egypt, which could be offered Opec membership.

Mexico seeks US talks

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Senior Jesus Silva Herzog, the Mexican finance minister, yesterday asked for an emergency meeting with Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, to discuss his country's economic plight following its decision to limit debt repayments.

A US Treasury official said the meeting following the dramatic announcement by President Miguel de la Madrid that Mexico intends to limit payments on its huge \$97 billion debt to "its capacity to pay". Bankers fear that Mexico's increasingly militant position will result soon in a unilateral action to limit debt repayments to a fraction of export earnings.

The Latin American group of debtor nations known as the Cartagena group is scheduled to meet this week in Uruguay to adopt a common approach to the region's \$350 billion debt which bankers fear could lead to a new confrontation with creditors. At the very least, the Cartagena group is expected to ask for big concessions from banks.

But despite concerns over the worsening debt crisis, the US Treasury continues to take a hard line approach in discussions with Mexico, officials said. Treasury spokesmen said yesterday that it was untrue that the Reagan administration was assembling a multi-billion dollar package of new loans for Mexico in the hope that the nation would accept more money instead of interest rate relief.

A top Treasury official said the Reagan Administration intended to continue to demand that Mexico take internal economic reforms as a condition of additional financial support from Western governments and banks. But Mexican officials have yet to produce either a formal estimate of their financial needs in the wake of the collapse of oil prices or a programme of economic reform which will require additional austerity measures.

Indeed, President de la Madrid indicated in his speech on Friday that Mexico had gone as far as it would go in taking austerity measures at home.

Company to reopen theatre

By Lawrence Lever

West End theatre received a boost from an unexpected quarter yesterday with the launch of a Business Expansion Scheme company which will purchase and re-open the Playhouse Theatre.

Playhouse Theatre Company is looking to raise £1.4 million. It will refurbish the theatre, which last staged productions in 1951, and put on shows at other West End and regional theatres. The sponsors of the issue are Chancery Securities.

The company is projecting losses of £99,000 and £85,000 in its first two years to January 1988, and a profit of £431,000 in the third year. The Playhouse Theatre will be re-opened in July 1987, although the company expects to begin trading in the summer of this year with the staging of a West End production. This will speed up tax relief on share subscriptions.

The theatre is valued in the prospectus at £375,000. A 999-year lease on it is being acquired by a subsidiary of Playhouse Theatres Productions, in return for the issue of 733,000 £1 shares to Mr Robin Gonslow, chairman of the company, and his family and associates.

The share exchange reflects the fact that Mr Gonslow's family company has incurred professional fees and interest charges, and it is disposing of an adjacent plot of land. Mr Gonslow and associated parties will also be investing between £700,000 and £800,000. Spectrum, page 10

Jobs in franchise sector up 50%

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Jobs in franchised businesses rose by a half last year to about 110,000, while turnover in the sector jumped by three quarters to £1.75 billion.

It now looks likely that franchising will reach an annual turnover of £5 billion by 1990. This was announced yesterday by Mr Ian Neill of the Pizza Express franchise chain, who is the new chairman of the British Franchise Association.

Mr Neill called for the appointment of a senior civil servant with direct responsibility for franchising now that the sector was becoming increasingly important to the commerce of the country.

This was important to ensure that the voice of franchising was heard when relevant legislation was being considered, he said.

The BFA is the trade body for companies which license their business formats to franchisees, but it is now seeking

ways for franchisee opinion to be reflected within the association. Practical ways in which franchisees could become involved are being discussed.

It is also launching a service to help companies contemplating the franchising route to growth. For a fee, it offers advice and counselling.



Ian Neill: calling for a civil servant for franchising

ICI wins court appeal over tax aid

ICI has won the latest round of its legal battle with the Government over what it claimed was unfair and unlawful tax advantages given to its oil company rivals.

The Court of Appeal in London yesterday ruled that tax concessions enjoyed by Shell, Esso and BP on the supply of the gas mixture ethane to their affiliated companies constituted a "grant aid" plant under the terms of EEC fair competition regula-

tions on aid to industry. Whether that aid is compatible with the regulations under the Treaty of Rome is now a question for the EEC Commissioners.

The judges allowed ICI's appeal against a High Court ruling in favour of the Government, and dismissed the Government's cross-appeal against a decision that the Revenue acted unlawfully in the way tax was assessed on

the ethane supplied by the oil companies.

The court also rejected the Government's argument that ICI had no legal standing in the case because it was not entitled to seek judicial review of the affairs of other taxpayers—Shell, Esso and BP.

After yesterday's judgment by Lord Oliver, Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Nourse, an ICI spokesman said: "We are absolutely delighted with the result."

Morgan Grenfell explains bid role

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Morgan Grenfell yesterday spelled out the terms under which it is buying shares in Distillers to further Guinness's agreed £2.35 billion takeover bid for the whisky group.

This follows an intervention by the Stock Exchange at the request of Mr James Gulliver's Argyle supermarket group, which has made a rival £2.3 billion bid for Distillers.

Argyle was concerned that the purchases by Morgan Grenfell may have caused Guinness to breach the Stock Exchange rule that all companies must seek shareholders' approval before undertaking an investment of more than 25 per cent of their net tangible assets.

Morgan Grenfell yesterday conceded that it had an option which allowed it to require Guinness to purchase the Distillers shares at cost.

But because of the 25 per cent rule, this option could not cover purchases of more than £66 million worth of Distillers shares. Morgan Grenfell is believed to have exceeded this level already.

Both Guinness and Argyle were back in the market yesterday buying more shares in Distillers.

Morgan Grenfell was also the subject of a complaint over its purchase of £360 million worth of shares in Imperial Group on behalf of United Biscuits. United Biscuits indemnified Morgan Grenfell against any losses on

the purchases, giving rise to the same concern about a possible breach of the 25 per cent rule.

The Stock Exchange said yesterday that it was letting the matter rest for the moment, since Hanson Trust's rival bid for Imperial meant that the potential loss to UB on the purchases was no more than £20 million.

Both Guinness and Argyle are set to make renewed representations to the Office of Fair Trading over Guinness's fresh attempt to acquire Distillers.

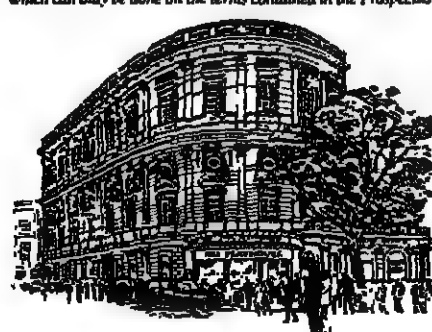
Mr Ernest Saunders, chief executive of Guinness, said that the combined share of Guinness and Distillers in whisky production capacity, would not be sufficient cause

for a reference of his new bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Saunders said that the issue of production capacity needed to be understood and that the facts were "a far cry from Argyle's renewed attempts to divert attention from the real issues".

He said that the difference in ownership of production between an Argyle-Distillers combination and a Guinness-Distillers tie-up was only 2.3 per cent. "Since the Argyle bid has been cleared and remains cleared, it is hardly credible that an increase of 2.3 per cent constitutes sufficient difference in ownership of production to justify an investigation by the MMC," he said.

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for or purchase any Shares which can only be done on the terms contained in the Prospectus



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(Company No. 1866391)

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- ★ Andrew Treagus, Chief Executive, who has extensive experience of managing West End productions, including "A Chorus Line", "Daisy Pulls It Off" and "Starlight Express".
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- ★ A substantial investment of over £1.4m at par by the Board and their associates.
- ★ A 65% loan facility which means appropriate investors need only pay initially 35% of their proposed investment.

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18th MARCH 1986—

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TEMPUS

Berisford gives out a warning with figures

S & W Berisford, the commodity trader, finally got round to publishing its results for the year ending last September yesterday.

Though the company says it was held up by the tin crisis, it is also possible that the delay reflects difficulties with the auditor, Spicer & Pegler.

Yesterday's preliminary figures were unaudited, and the company warns that when it does publish its report may be qualified. Until then shareholders should reserve judgement.

The crucial question is whether Berisford has provided enough money to cover any loss resulting from the tin crisis.

Yesterday it revealed a provision of £10 million, based on the amount it would have to put into Newco, the company which it is proposed will take on the obligations of the International Tin Council.

But if Newco is not set up, Berisford would have larger losses to cover. In addition to an open position of 7,660 tonnes, worth £62 million at the suspension price, it has lent £15 million to the buffer stock manager.

Yesterday shareholders learned that a further £19 million had been provided against the Erlanger Tubular business which was sold two years ago.

The consideration for Erlanger was in the form of a promissory note which was to be repaid by selling stock. Estimates of the value of that stock have proved wildly overoptimistic, thus the writedown.

Above the line the figures were also disappointing. Pretax profits were down from £80.2 million to £52.9 million despite a maiden contribution of £7 million from NGI, the new American acquisition, and £4 million profit on the sale of property.

Berisford made losses on sugar and tea trading, and cocoa profits were well down. British Sugar's results were also depressed. But the bull market in coffee was of some benefit.

Perhaps most worrying was a £13 million increase in the interest charge to £68 million. At the year end borrowings stood at £637 million, includ-

ing £200 million of trade finance. There is also off-balance sheet finance of £120 million. That compares with shareholders' funds of £365 million.

The company claims not to be worried about its balance sheet but it has had talks with several companies, including Hilldown Holdings, about selling British Sugar, about £100 million.

That and the maintained dividend added 10p to the share price yesterday, taking it to 166p. Until an offer emerges or the audit report appears, however, sentiment is likely to be the main support.

Vickers

Berisford's slowness is to be sharply contrasted with Vickers' speed. Yesterday Vickers produced its figures for the year to December 31 and they were audited. What is more, the results were excellent, with profits up from £30.8 million to £45.1 million before tax.

This is the second successive good year, and the market was quick to adjust to the news with a 35p lift in the share price to 403p. Now Vickers faces the problem of keeping up the momentum.

Although there is further scope in some of its existing business, notably Rolls-Royce cars and the medical, marine and office equipment divisions, Vickers is increasingly looking to acquisitions for growth. Last year's purchases probably contributed £3 million before interest, but the effect should be more noticeable this year.

With a stronger share price and gearing down to 17 per cent, Vickers can afford further expansion, and it is particularly keen to increase overseas sales, already running at 60 per cent.

While the market may be keen to see the quality of the purchase before completing the re-rating, these results should be enough to sustain confidence for some time.

McAlpine

After the disappointing interim results, Sir Alfred McAlpine's full-year figures pleased the market and the shares gained 16p to 352p, despite a much higher tax charge which dragged earn-

ings down from 45.4p to 38.9p.

The collapse of the rand knocked almost £1.75 million off the contribution from South Africa, but the company's timely withdrawal from that troubled country - at the guaranteed sterling price of £19.5 million - will mean a pleasing postscript to this year's figures, with an extraordinary profit on disposal of about £15 million.

The company is losing no time in re-investing these proceeds in its chosen area for expansion, the United States. The minerals division is planning to add to its Alabama interests in sand and gravel with a \$12.5 million (£8.5 million) purchase of a larger operation in the Carolinas.

In the homes division, McAlpine recently agreed the \$4 million purchase of a New Hampshire house-building company, K&B Construction, to add to its Moore Homes interests.

Construction moved ahead from £9.2 million to £11.8 million, but included a £1.7 million turnaround in over-seas activities. Profits in the UK improved by about £900,000 on turnover of £255 million, but whereas the forward workload is much the same as a year ago, recent tenders have given the company hope that the outlook is improving.

The "really strong performance" hoped for a year ago for the minerals division failed to materialize because of the bad UK first half and the lower South African contribution, and profits fell £1 million to £7.5 million. This year will have the benefit of a full year from the Tullach acquisition but, with a heavier internal interest charge, the division will be hard pushed to match that.

The strongest growth this year should come from the homes division, where profits advanced by £300,000 to £2.9 million. Assuming the tax charge reverts to a more normal 35 per cent, pretax profits of £26 million this year would mean that the shares are selling at about 7.5 times prospective earnings and offering a likely yield of 5.7 per cent. Up from 248p at the time of the interim results, that looks high enough.

COMPANY NEWS

● **TNT:** For the half-year to Dec. 31, 1985, a quarterly dividend of 4 cents is being paid on March 28, making 7 cents (6 cents). The directors intend to pay 14 cents for the full year (12 cents last time). Turnover was \$1,423.37 million (about £694 million), against \$1,062.93 million. Pretax profit was \$84.2 million (Aus. \$59.56 million). Earnings per share 19.1 cents (12.9 cents). Net tangible asset backing per stock unit at Dec. 31, 1985, 101 cents (101 cents). The board reports that the operating results for the full year will be in advance of 1985-85.

● **TELELLWARE INTERNATIONAL:** The company has acquired two-thirds of the equity of N C Joseph for £385,000 - £200,000 in cash and the balance by the issue of 100,000 ordinary shares to Lapwing Investments, one of the vendors. Joseph makes domestic kitchen equipment and appliances and is subcontracting the assembly of domestic appliances and motor vehicle industries. Joseph's pretax loss for 1985 will be about £150,000, from sales of £3.8 million. The company is projecting sales of £4.5 million for 1986.

● **DWEK GROUP:** The board is in the advanced stages of negotiations which, if successful, would result in an important acquisition.

More company news on page 21

● **HOGGETT BOWERS:** Mr John Featherstone, the chairman, told the annual meeting that both fee income and pretax profits had risen by about 20 per cent in the first quarter of 1985-86. He was confident that the profit for the first half, to Feb. 28, 1986, will be well in excess of the corresponding period last year. The board is confident of another record year in 1985-86.

● **ERKINS HOUSE:** The company is to buy Bustron (Sales & Service) and Pennine Reprographics. The maximum consideration is £1.25 million and £1 million, which will be satisfied by the issue of 1.55 million new ordinary shares (an increase of 10.7 per cent in the ordinary capital). Of these, 33,784 shares will be retained by the vendors of Pennine. The remaining 1.48 million are being conditionally placed at 147p each with institutional investors.

Healthy business surveys help indexes to power on

Stock markets continued to blaze away at the start of a new two week account. Encouraging business surveys from the CBI and London Business School pointing out the benefits for short term economic growth due to the collapse of oil prices contributed to the buoyant mood as did the stronger pound which inevitably revived hope of lower interest rates which some dealers expect on Budget Day.

The FT 30 share index powered 19.2 points to a record 1275.2 while the more broadly based FT-SE share index added 14.8 to 1532.8, also a record.

Stockbrokers analysts are also becoming increasingly "bullish" about the economy and shares. Rowe & Pitman for example predict that the all share index will rise from 720 to around 800 and believe a jump to around 900 is possible on a two year view barring political accidents.

The Greenwell Research team still consider securities are cheap relative to cash and in particular forecast a 15 per cent growth in dividends for 1986. So against this cheerful background the "bulls" continue to run amok with only bank shares dull due to Mexico's debt problem.

Double figure gains were frequent in most sectors with stock shortages a vital factor behind many of the sharper improvements. There was fresh evidence of US buying for selective "blue chips" which helped to support shares towards the close.

ICI which reports full year results on Thursday jumped 35p to 939p helped by "buy" recommendations from two American broking houses.

A 46 per cent jump in profits from Vickers, some £3m above best estimates,

prompted a 37 per cent jump in the share price to 405p. Further press suggestions that Beecham may bid for Fisons failed to halt a 12p rise in Beecham to 383p. Cement makers Blue Circle continued to anticipate rumoured price increases up 15p to 583p.

Engineering stock were strong behind the Vickers results and the optimistic surveys on manufacturing industries. Guest Keen advanced 13p to 343p and Hawker 24p to 539p. Lucas at 618p up 12p continued to reflect satisfaction with the Saudi Tornado order announced last week.

Takeover speculators were out in force again trying to spot the next candidate. Pilkington was marked up 21p to 421p on talk of an offer from cash rich BTR 5p better at 443p.

Pearson Group was active again on suggestions of a consortium bid worth around 550p. The shares closed 18p higher at 478p. Country Gentlemen's Association was lifted 250p to 800p on the terms from Bestwood.

Exco put on 8p to 242p on the weekend disclosure that the company were in exploratory merger talks with Mor-

gan Grenfell. Morgan are unquoted but 23 per cent stakeholder Willis Faber improved 18p to 437p.

Builders had several good spots on cheaper money hopes. Marley added 2p to 110p ahead of today's results. Dealers are looking for some news of the proposed sale of the Payless subsidiary. Pretax profits are expected to be around £20m down from £33m.

Alexander Russell gained 10p to 128p as RMC and Scottish Heritable announced stakeholdings. Alfred McAlpine rose 16p to 352p after a modest increase in earnings. Most dealers were expecting a small shortfall.

Comment on the heating deal with Thorn EMI lifted Myson Group 13p to 99p. Tinstall Telecom celebrated a marketing agreement with Boots by climbing 25p to 300p.

Amstrad continued to recognise the profit potential for compact disc players and word processors up 25p to 380p.

Mount Charlotte jumped 5 1/2p to 100p in anticipation of good results today. S & W Berisford was marked up 10p to 166p as the company held

the dividend and produced profits above worst estimates. Profit taking knocked from Bower at 320p but renewed takeover hopes stimulated DBG at 253p up 8p and Roddams Glass 12p higher at 150p.

Stores made further progress as two banks cut their rates for endowment mortgages. Gas A at 930p up 26p reflected favourable comment. W H Smith A advanced 12p to 300p in belated response to the Fleet Street property sale announced last week.

Weekend press tips boosted Keep Trust 13p to 148p. Scottish TV 18p to 268p. Stead & Simpson 14p to 90p and Vantona 14p to 446p. Expansion moves lifted Dwek Group 13p to 62p.

Oils shrugged aside the lower spot price with Shell up 15p to 688p. New issue PPL (Holdings) recorded a 20p at 165p. Isotron reporting soon put on another 25p to 315p. Thomson T-Line climbed 1 1/2p to 163p on talk of a new deal soon.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:
GKN 342p
Hawker 539p
ICI 535p
Beecham 383p
Marley 110p
Pilkington 421p
Alex Russell 128p
McAlpine 352p up 16p
St Group 33p
Myson 99p
BTR 443p
Tinstall Telecom 300p
Amstrad 380p
Rock 26p
ICI Charles 100p
Scottish TV 268p
S W Berisford 166p
DBG 253p
Roddams 150p
W H Smith 300p
Stead & Simpson 90p
Devon Int 224p
FALLS:
Bower 320p down 8p
Natwest 652p down 17p

RECENT ISSUES

Macro 4 (105p) 143 up 4
Mervale Moore (115p) 125
Microsystems (127p) 133 up 3
Norank Sys (90p) 100
Really Useful (330p) 368
SAC Int (100p) 129 up 3
SPP (125p) 157
Sigmex (101p) 85 dn 1
Snowdon & B (97p) 108
Spice (80p) 87 dn 2
Tech Comp (130p) 189 up 1
Underwoods (180p) 175 up 2
Wellcome (120p) 175 up 3
W York Hosp (90p) 78 up 3
Wickes (140p) 147
(Issue price in brackets).

COMMODITIES REVIEW

Why all that glitters must be platinum

Metalurgists have always been enthralled by platinum. They drool over its molecular structure, describe lovingly its extraordinary ability to maintain integrity under harsh conditions and refresh the technical considerations of its discovery, isolation and refining.

But today another group is fast learning to appreciate a more mundane virtue of its rare and massive metal - its price - and in so doing has raised the spectre of platinum's vulnerability as a strategic metal.

Speculators have in the past month scrambled to board the platinum bandwagon. So far they have enjoyed a brisk ride, and the conviction is that enticing profits await those who stay aboard.

At the end of January, platinum for April delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange was trading at \$379 (£260) an ounce. It is now \$400, almost twice the price of a year ago.

Most metals, of course, have been so dismal for so long that many investors barely give them a moment's thought. After a brief and exciting flurry of activity which took it up to \$350 last month, gold has been slipping, with the interesting incidental effect that platinum again commands a premium over gold. But why is platinum bucking the trend?

Analysts such as Mr Geoffrey Robson at Johnson Matthey trace the decisive turn to August and September last year, when first the growing unrest in South Africa and then the agreement between the leading industrial nations to devalue the dollar caused the market fundamentally to reassess platinum.

The dollar argument lacks conviction. Other metals and indeed commodities generally have not benefited by nearly as much as platinum. The weaker dollar has probably contributed to platinum's rise, but chiefly because the stage was already set.

A vital if imprecise part of the background was the turmoil in South Africa. One metals trader, who by happy coincidence is also a metallurgist and potty about platinum, put it succinctly: "There's a vast question mark over South Africa's reliability as a supplier."

The republic meets 80 per cent of Western demand for platinum, which last year was about 3.1 million ounces, and its reserves of 2 billion ounces

are by far the biggest in the world. Since the Soviet Union has the second biggest reserves, albeit a tenth the size of South Africa's, the politics of platinum require little elaboration. One does not have to postulate either the imminence of revolution in the republic or continued disruption to supply afterwards to accept that customers might be worried.

Oddly enough, confirmation of this proposition came from neither the African National Congress nor Moscow, but from Impala, one of South Africa's three big platinum mining companies.

At the end of last year, Impala - which is owned by the Afrikaner group Gencor - sacked more than 23,000

workers at its mines in Bophuthatswana, alleging political disruption of production.

It was the biggest sacking in South African history, and a bad mistake. Gencor fell foul of the Pretoria Government - then trying to improve its image - and has found that replacing the sacked miners with skilled local Tswanas is difficult.

Analysts estimate that Impala could lose 300,000 ounces of production this year, or 10 per cent of Western demand. Since it is thought that in any case demand will exceed supply of platinum by 100,000 ounces in 1986 - the first supply deficit for a while - the most basic statistics signal an open road ahead for the bandwagon.

Nor is the bandwagon likely to lack momentum this year. Gencor's heavy-handedness disguises a probable long-term imbalance of supply and demand, which last year prompted Johnson Matthey in its first annual platinum review to suggest that platinum's fortunes were about to improve.

The crucial fact here is that despite investors' interest, platinum, unlike gold, is primarily an industrial material. Equally important, 80 per cent of platinum used industrially is not recovered, whereas most of the gold mined since the dawn of history is extant.

By far the biggest long-term demand for platinum will be

from producers of car exhaust catalysts. European Economic Community regulations will force car manufacturers to install catalysts in new models from October 1988.

That may seem some way off, but the lead times in setting up platinum refining capacity are long and stocks must be accumulated.

Johnson Matthey and Degussa, its West German rival, plan to produce 3 million catalysts each. This has the interesting side-effect of increasing demand for palladium and rhodium, two other platinum group metals, of which the Soviet Union is a relatively bigger supplier than platinum.

Between 1980 and 1985, demand for platinum in catalysts rose from 680,000 ounces to perhaps about 900,000 ounces, or 30 per cent of total Western platinum demand.

Over the same period, demand for platinum in jewellery grew from 560,000 ounces to roughly the same amount as for catalysts. But as car emission standards are tightened up all over the world, catalysts are likely to become the single biggest platinum consumer.

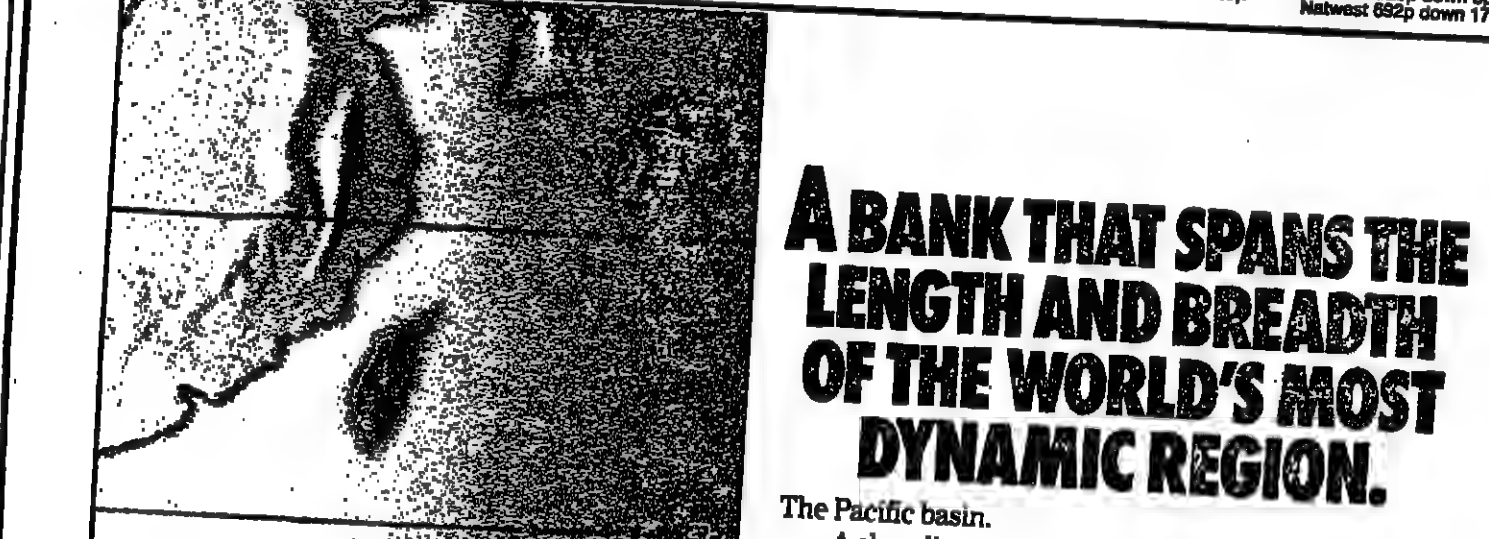
The most powerful short-term influence on the price has been the remarkable expansion of investor interest in the metal. Reliable figures start only in 1982, when hoarding accounted for 45,000 ounces, a mere 2 per cent of overall demand. Last year it could have been as high as 255,000 ounces, or 7.5 per cent.

The Isle of Man Noble coin marketed by Ayrton Metals, a subsidiary of Gencor, has helped to popularize platinum. In fact, the importance of investor demand far outweighs that of the amounts involved. As other industrial uses such as electronics, glass and chemicals have also grown, stocks have fallen. Estimates of available stocks range from two months' to six months' demand.

But whatever the real figure, investors now hold the balance in what promises to become an increasingly volatile market. Manufacturing demand for platinum is relatively insensitive to price.

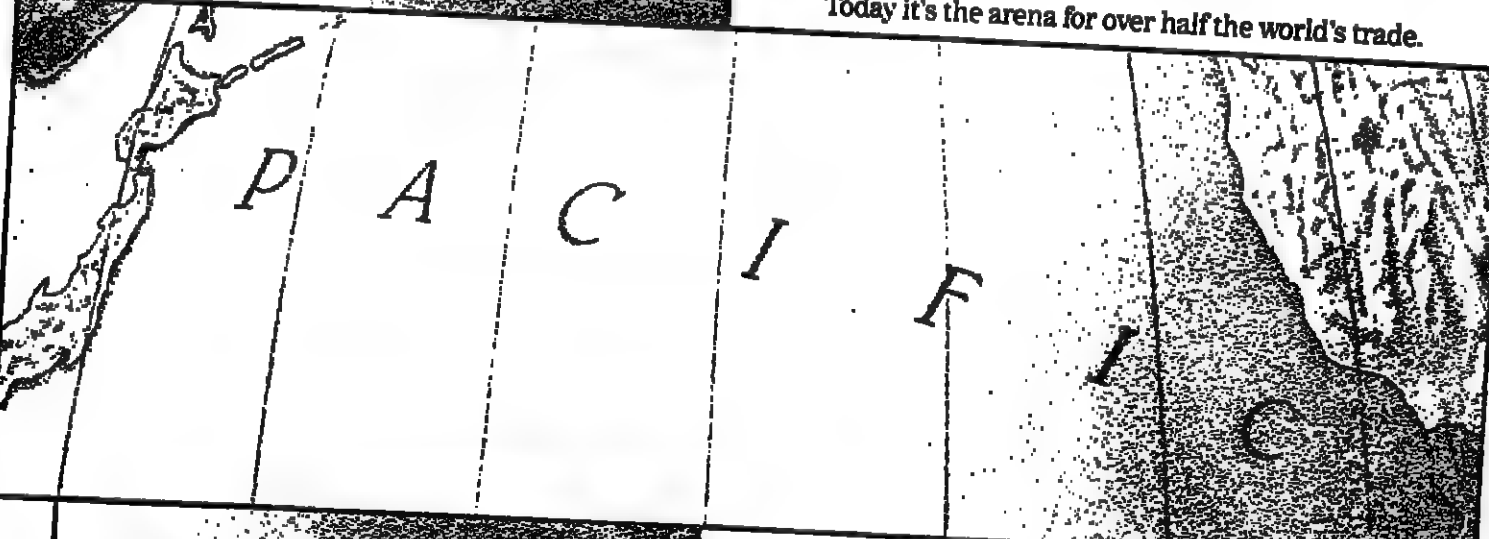
So the speculators' bandwagon can trundle on happily for a long way before it hits the natural barrier of consumer resistance. It will be some time before metallurgists are left in peace to drool over platinum again.

Michael Prest



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APPOINTMENTS

Athena International: Mr Paul Ross has been appointed procurement and distribution director.

Intec: Mr Ian M Herman has become group managing director and Mr Allan Castle financial director.

Sherwood Computel: Mr Richard Gay has been made managing director.

Willis Faber: Mr Ray Salter is to join the board. He will also become a director of Willis Faber and Dumas and deputy managing director of its North American reinsurance division.

Itken Hume International: Mr S A (Tony) Constance has been made group chief executive.

Marin Retail Group: Mr Brian Baylis has been named managing director.

Grandfield Rork Collins Financial: Mr Simon Proctor has been appointed to a public relations executive.

A Cohen & Co (Great Britain): Mr D C Barker-Gould and Mr L Victor have become directors.

Jardine Glanville (UK): Mr Michael Clarke and Mr Colin Symes have been made directors of the northern division.

Jardine Insurance Brokers (UK): Mr David Cowley has been appointed managing director.

Brent Chemicals International: Mr Dennis Wilby has been appointed to the main board.

Dataquest: Mr Malcolm Penna has been made director of European operations.

The Union Discount Company of London: Mr John Slater has become deputy chairman in succession to Lord Rennant, who is to remain on the board.

Greene Gilchrist group: Mr John Greaves has been made managing director, has in addition become a group executive deputy chairman.

Standard Chartered Bank: Mr Frank Erenst has been appointed a director of the subsidiary, Standard Chartered Bank (C.I.).

B & R Taylor Group of Companies: Mr Liam Ferguson has been appointed group financial director. Mr Clifford Affleck, group technical director and a director of Taylor Hitec, becomes deputy managing director of two principal subsidiaries, B & R Taylor and Taylec.

Nursing homes seek money through BES

By Lawrence Lever

The old, sick and those who have retired are the latest targets of companies seeking finance under the Business Expansion Scheme, which allows individuals tax relief on investments of up to £40,000 a year in certain types of private company.

Projects seeking finance include private medical centres and nursing homes.

Pax Hill, sponsored by Baden-Powell Chilcott, is looking for £554,000 to establish private communities for care which, according to the prospectus, will "provide a comfortable, dignified and congenial environment where elderly, infirm, disabled or handicapped persons may live independent lives in the knowledge that the support services which they require are always available."

Aspiring investors should note that the founder directors have transferred their existing business into the BES company in return for the issue of shares at their 50p par value. Outside shareholders are being asked to pay 120p.

Moreover, Pax Hill is forecasting - not projecting - profits before tax of £80,000 in the year to September 30, 1986.

In the previous two financial years, the founding directors' existing business made losses of £65,291 and £2,654 respectively on its ordinary trading.

Pax Hill has freehold properties valued at £930,000 and indebtedness of about £383,000.

Bright Walton Homes, sponsored by Hill Samuel, is looking for a more ambitious £5 million to own and operate residential and nursing homes.

The company has signed an agreement with the USMC, quoted Health Care Services under which Health Care will take a fee of £25,000 for administrative, accounting and secretarial services in the first year.

Guardian Care, advised by Douglas J Townley & Co, Bolton, is seeking up to £2 million to expand its nursing home activities.

Takare is looking to raise up to £2.2 million to acquire and operate specialist medical centres. It is sponsored by Fiske & Co and UTC Securities Management.

Bid to liberalize power industry 'has failed'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Government attempts to liberalize the electricity supply industry by allowing private companies to set up power stations under the 1983 Energy Act have largely failed, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The institute said the Energy Act was flawed and left the incumbent electricity supply industry with effective control of price and entry conditions.

"In practice this has led to the pricing conditions being set in a way which may discourage entry," it said.

"It should be acknowledged that an argument could be made for saying that the current pricing conditions are economically efficient."

"The creation of a market in electricity may, therefore, only be feasible if a more fundamental restructuring of the electricity supply industry is implemented. Certainly in the present situation restructuring is required if competition is to be increased without adding further to excess capacity."

Private power generation in Britain is limited to a few large chemical and paper-making companies and to schools and hotels where small generators have been installed.

No privately generated power is fed into the national grid.

COMPANY NEWS

LONDON SHOP PROPERTY TRUST: Acceptances have been received in respect of approximately 90 per cent of the new conversion stock offered by way of rights.

COURTNEY POPE HOLDINGS: An interim dividend of 3.5p (3p) payable on May 16 has been declared. Turnover for the half year to November 30 (figures in £000) was 22,836 (22,040) and net profit before tax 1,005 (800). Earnings per share were 12.73p (13.18p).

PERICOM: The chairman told the annual meeting that the company had purchased minority shareholding in Pericom Inc. The American partners will continue to run the company as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pericom.

NORTHERN AMERICAN TRUST: The company has repaid its \$5 million three-month fixed loan and borrowed another \$5 million for two months.

CITY SITE ESTATES: The company proposes to raise £1,328 million after expenses by way of a placing of one million ordinary shares at 135p per share to facilitate the acquisition of Newton House, a modern office building in Glasgow.

E W TARRY: A dividend of 35 cents (nil) for 1985 is being posted around June 6. With figures in £000, net profit rose to 1,770 (993) and pretax profit to 935 (554).

UNITED GLASS HOLDINGS: With figures in £000, turnover for the year to November 30 rose to 193,76 (181,931) and trading profit to 15,071 (12,615).

STOCKLAKE HOLDINGS: An interim dividend of 3p (same), payable on April 4, has been declared. With figures in £000, turnover for the six months to September 30 was 11,680 (11,827), group profit before tax 1,871 (1,556) and tax 919 (845). Earnings per share rose to 22.6p (16.9p).

WILLIAM JACKSON AND SON: Results for the 26 weeks to October 26 (figures in £000) show turnover at £1,047 (74,409) and pretax profit at 772 (880). Earnings per share were down to 17.43p (31.53p).

European Law Report

UK oil policy not against EEC law

Bulk Oil (2nd) AG v Sun International Ltd and Sun Oil Trading Company Case 174/84 Before Lord MacKenzie Stuart, President and Judges K. Bahlmann, G. Bosco, T. Koopmans, O. Duc, Y. Gaimot and C. Kakouris Advocate General Sir Gordon Slynn [Judgment given February 18]

The United Kingdom policy whose effect was to prevent exports of crude oil of United Kingdom origin to Israel was not contrary to the agreement between the EEC and Israel or to any other provision of Community law.

Since January 1979 it was UK policy to authorize the exportation of oil of UK origin only to member states of the EEC, member states of the International Energy Agency and countries with which there was, before 1979, an "existing pattern of trade" (specifically, Finland).

This policy had never been incorporated in legislation or in any legal instrument whatsoever but had been made public on several occasions by government statements.

Since 1979 oil companies, in particular British Petroleum, had inserted a destination clause in their standard contracts prohibiting buyers from exporting oil to a destination other than the states mentioned above.

By a contract concluded in April 1981 the defendant agreed to sell to the plaintiff substantial quantities of British North Sea crude oil. The contract contained a clause in the following terms: "destination: destination free but always in line with exporting country's government policy."

After the defendant had become aware that the intended destination of the oil was Israel, BP, the supplier of the oil, refused to load it on to the ship nominated by Bulk, on the ground that delivery to Israel was contrary to UK policy.

Bulk made a claim against Sun, arguing that it was entitled under the contract to oblige Sun to have the oil loaded for delivery to Israel, asserting that in any event, Sun could not rely on UK policy.

The dispute was referred to arbitration, on the issue whether the UK policy was in conformity with the EEC Treaty and the agreement between the EEC and Israel.

In its award the arbitrator held that the EEC-Israel Agreement did not cover quantitative restrictions on exports and that the exportation of crude oil was not within the ambit of the Treaty or of that agreement. He therefore held that Bulk was in breach of contract, and, in his final award, he assessed the damages due from Bulk to Sun at more than US \$12 million.

Bulk appealed against that award and the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division referred a number of questions to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held as follows:

It had first to be pointed out that the implementation of a policy whose specific object was to impose quantitative restrictions on exports to non-member countries was to be regarded as a measure having an effect equivalent to such restrictions.

Such a policy or practice did not escape the prohibitions laid down by Community law simply because it was not incorporated in decisions binding on undertakings.

Even measures adopted by the government of a member state which did not have binding effect might be capable of influencing the conduct of undertakings in that state and thus of frustrating the aims of the Community.

Article 3 of the agreement expressly prohibited any new quantitative restriction on imports or measures having equivalent effect. With regard to exports, on the other hand, article 4 simply prohibited the introduction of new customs duties or charges having equivalent effect.

Neither that article nor any other provision of the EEC-Israel Agreement expressly prohibited quantitative restrictions on exports or measures having equivalent effect on trade between the Community and Israel.

As Sun, the UK and the Commission correctly contended, it had to be concluded that the agreement laid no obligation on the Community or on the member states with regard to the introduction or abolition of quantitative restrictions on exports or measures having equivalent effect.

By the second part of its first question the national court asked in essence whether Regulation No 2603/69 of the Council of December 20, 1969 establishing common rules for exports had to be interpreted as permitting the implementation of a policy such as that in issue with regard to oil exports.

It had to be recalled that, according to article 113 (1) of the Treaty the common commercial policy was to be based on uniform principles, particularly as regards changes in tariff rates, the conclusion of tariff and trade agreements, the achievement of uniformity in measures of liberalization, export policy and measures to governing exports to non-member countries.

Since full responsibility in the matter of commercial policy had been transferred to the Community by article 113(1) measures of commercial policy of a national character were only permissible after the end of the transitional period by virtue of specific authorization by the Community.

Article 1 of Regulation No 2603/69 laid down the general rule that exports from the Community to non-member countries were free, that is to say, not subject to quantitative restrictions, with the exception of those applied in accordance with the provisions of that regulation.

Article 10 of the regulation limited the scope of that principle on a transitional basis with regard to certain products, until such time as the Council should have established common rules applicable to them; it provided that the principle of freedom of export from the Community did not apply to the products listed in the annex which included oil.

It had therefore to be held that article 10 of Regulation No 2603/69 and the annex to that regulation constituted a specific authorization permitting the member states to impose quantitative restrictions on exports of oil to non-member countries, and there was no need to distinguish in that regard between previously existing quantitative restrictions and those which had subsequently been introduced.

Further questions asked by the national court were to be understood essentially as requesting the Court's assistance on the following two points of law:

(1) Was the UK prohibited from adopting a policy such as that in question by any other provisions of the Treaty?

(2) Was it necessary for such a policy to be notified to or approved by the Community institutions before its implementation, and if so, what were the consequences?

It had to be pointed out that article 34 of the Treaty constituted national measures which had their specific object or effect the restriction of patterns of exports and thereby the establishment of a difference in treatment between the domestic trade of a member state and its export trade in such a way as to provide a particular advantage for national production or for the domestic market of the state in question at the expense of the production or of the trade of other member states.

That was not true of a policy such as that in question. Such a policy which applied only to exports to certain non-member countries, did not specifically affect exports to other member states and was not intended to provide a particular advantage for national production or for the domestic market of the state in question.

A measure such as that in question which was specifically directed at exports of oil to a non-member country was not in itself likely to restrict or distort competition within the Common Market. It could not therefore affect trade within the Community and infringe articles 30, 34 and 35 of the Treaty.

With regard to the existence of an obligation to provide information, to give prior notice to or to seek the prior approval of the Community authorities and to consult with them before adopting any measure amending rules governing exports to non-member countries, it followed from the combined provisions of various Council decisions that, even after the end of the transitional period of the adoption of Regulation No 2603/69, member states were obliged to inform the member states and the Commission before making any changes in their rules on exports to non-member countries.

A member state which failed to give prior notice, delayed in doing so or did so in an inadequate manner failed to fulfil its obligations under the Council decisions referred to, that failure did not, however, create individual rights which national courts had to protect.

The fact that no Community institution challenged the legality of a policy adopted by a member state could not in itself have any effect on the compatibility with Community law of a policy imposing quantitative restrictions on exports of oil to non-member countries or, consequently, on the reply to be given to the questions raised by the national court.

Law Report February 25 1986

Clerk has duty to note oral evidence

Gray v Gray

It was the duty of the clerk to the justices to record the oral evidence given in domestic proceedings. Mrs Justice Helson stated in the Family Division on February 18, when allowing an appeal from Chesham Justices who had refused to vary children's orders the application of the former husband.

HER LADYSHIP said that the failure to record any of the oral evidence given during a four-hour hearing had meant that both sides were at a disadvantage on the appeal.

The court had no option but to allow the appeal and remit the matter to a fresh panel of justices for a rehearing.

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CONTRIBUTES EFFECTIVELY TO CORPORATE PERFORMANCE

A YEAR OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SIGNIFICANT PROFIT GROWTH

THIS has been a successful year for Vickers. Turnover on continuing businesses rose from £503.6m to £602.3m and profit before taxation by 46 per cent from £30.8m to £45.1m. Taxation increased from £4.4m to £11.4m due to more subsidiary companies' profits becoming taxable. The resulting profit after tax of £33.7m is an increase of 28 per cent.

All key businesses improved profitability with the exception of Marine Engineering, where substantial costs on development and pre-production of new products were written off during the year.

An important feature of 1985 was the acquisition of new businesses to add to the strength of those within the Company. These acquisitions were facilitated by the success of the Company's divestment programme in which the major part of the property portfolio was sold and BAJ Vickers, Vickers Dawson and our interest in Comsted Vickers were divested.

Acquisitions made during the year included Comforto, the leading European manufacturer of office seating and Teca, the US distributor of Vickers electromyography equipment. Both bring significant benefits to the Divisions of which they now form part.


Particular emphasis in 1985 was given to investment, innovation and new product development. The programme included some £17 million spent on R&D. Such investment is essential to maintain product superiority and ensure profitable growth in world markets.

In view of the continuing improvement in results the Board is recommending a final dividend of 8p per £1 Ordinary Stock, making a total of 13p for the year, all net of tax credits compared to a total of 10p for 1984.

MOTOR CARS

Sales £175.8m (£149.2m)
Profit before interest £17.2m (£14.1m)

1985 was a year of strong demand for Rolls-Royce Motors, boosted by the successful launch of the new Bentley Turbo R model with sales and profits surpassing 1984 levels. The USA is still the largest market, and



The Rolls-Royce Phantom - pride of Britain, emblems of the world.


LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING PLATES AND SUPPLIES

Sales £118.2m (£103.8m)
Profit before interest £11.5m (£10.2m)

Howson-Algraphy had a good year with further growth in market share and increased sales in virtually all markets. Despite competitive pressures, margins were maintained.

In the UK, Howson-Algraphy is strongly placed to take advantage of technological changes now taking place in the newspaper printing industry. Significantly improved performance were reported by both the US and Canadian subsidiaries. Sales and profitability improved in Europe.

Continued emphasis on R&D will ensure that a technological lead is maintained.



In addition to lithographic printing plates, Howson-Algraphy manufactures a range of processing equipment.

BUSINESS EQUIPMENT

Sales £84.7m (£80.8m)
Profit before interest £6.3m (£2.7m)

The acquisition of the internationally successful Comforto Group, with factories in West Germany, Switzerland and the USA ensures a major presence in Europe and provides access to the US market.

Comforto traded well in the post acquisition period and ended 1985 with a strong order book.

Vickers Furniture had another very successful year with continued profit growth. The new System E 90 screen-based furniture won major orders. C.A. Parsons of Ireland was acquired to provide a base in the

MARINE ENGINEERING

Sales £70.6m (£63.2m)
Profit before interest £4.5m (£2.0m)

A record sales year, although profits were depressed by high product development costs. Brown Brothers delivered its first crown mounted compensator. John Hastie gained its first orders for the new orbital crane product.

Mitchell Bearings made strong progress and contributed to profits. Stone Vickers Ltd supplied the first production units of its retractable azimuthing thrusters to Mitsui for the world's largest heavy lift crane barge.

Vickers Japan opened new manufacturing facilities. Jered Brown Brothers made a major trading contribution with sales to the US Navy.



The US Navy also continued from SOFEC the first rapidly deployable single point mooring system.

Sony's Vickers sign world-wide reputation for design and manufacture of computerised, high performance products.

DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE

Sales £69.5m (£57.1m)
Profit before interest £2.2m (£0.9m)

A year of strong development for Defence Systems Division. The most significant order was from the Ministry of Defence

MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT

Sales £34.4m (£26.7m)
Profit before interest £4.8m (£3.2m)

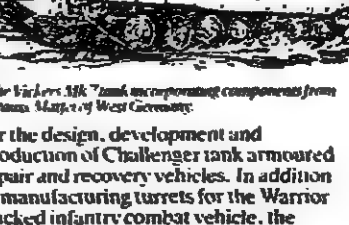
1985 was a year of expansion with three acquisitions. The most significant, Teca Corporation, manufactures neurodiagnostic equipment and also distributes Medelec products in the USA.

Vickers Instruments (Canada), manufacturer of electron microscopes, provides a logical extension to Vickers optical micrometre technology. The third acquisition, Etudes et Constructions Electroniques et Medicales, SA will distribute Medelec and Teca products in France.

Medelec maintained its world leadership in electromyography with further sales of the Mysym system.

Vickers Medical sales were adversely affected by some reduction in healthcare spending but plans are under way to broaden both product and geographical market bases and accelerate R&D.

Vickers Instruments continued to develop Quasator, an automated micrometre measurement system for the semiconductor industry.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Sales £49.1m (£41.8m)
Profit before interest £2.5m (£1.1m loss)

PRINTING & PACKAGING MACHINERY

Crabtree Vickers Leeds consolidated its 1984 recovery with increased profits.

Development of the Clixus newspaper linking system has established a major growth area. Crabtree Vickers Gateshead

DESIGN AND PROJECTS


The Division had a difficult year but traded profitably and maintained a healthy order book at the year end. New projects included orders from Japan and Hong Kong, and the final stages of existing key contracts were reached. Projects in the USA for aircraft component test equipment are encouraging.

MACHINE TOOLS

Kearney & Trecker Marwin returned to profitability with a major upturn in orders following the introduction of new technology, which helped secure significant new business. Partnerships with Siemens and Mitsubishi have greatly strengthened global marketing capability and orders have been won from Jaguar, Case International and Citroen.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATE

Comsted Vickers returned to profitability in the second half of 1985. At the turn of the year the Vickers 38 per cent shareholding was sold, a move which reflects Vickers corporate strategy of concentrating resources on key business areas.



RESULTS IN BRIEF	1985	1984
Sales	£611.2	£528.8
Profit before taxation	£45.1	£30.8
Profit after taxation	£33.7	£26.4
Stockholders' profit	£42.2	£16.4
Dividends	£12.4	£9.6
Profit retained	£29.8	£6.8
Earnings per £1 of Ordinary Stock	36.3p	28.6p

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The figures shown above are from the full year, until 31st March 1986, and are not comparable with the figures for the year ended 31st March 1985. The full Report and Accounts will be published in April 1986. New shareholders please write for a copy to The Secretary to the address above. The Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.00pm on 26th April 1986 at Millbank Tower.



Uncertain welcome for Amstrad launch

Amstrad is expected to launch a more powerful version of its £450 word processor soon in an attempt to boost appeal to offices. But mainstream business microcomputer dealers are unlikely to welcome an era of cheaper machines, according to a survey by the consultancy Context. Seventy three per cent of 370 dealers polled said they had no interest in selling "a product like Amstrad's PCW 8256".

The slump in computer sales has caused problems for computer dealers and many obviously fear that low-price computers will only make their situation worse. Only 9 per cent of those questioned said they would be interested in selling such products. With a clear demand for computers like the Amstrad it is high street stores which welcome the new machines that will benefit.

A computer game developed at the University of Bradford is being used to treat young children with defective vision. It uses an alternating black and white checkerboard to help exercise eyes where, for example, a child has one eye which sees clearly and one which does not producing a blurred image at the back of the eye. The brain may ignore the image from the defective eye so it will not develop. This condition, called amblyopia, can be treated, say the researchers at Bradford, by covering the good eye with an eyepatch and providing a game where random letters have to be remembered and then entered into a keyboard.

As a reward for getting them right the child is allowed to play a short computer game. With the help of pupils at Holmfirth High School the program has now been converted for use on BBC micros.

Optical laser discs are being used by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau (CAB) to store information ranging from foot and mouth disease to rice crop breeding programmes. Each disc can hold the equivalent of 200,000 pages of A4 type or two volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Prices for the equipment, using a Digital Equipment Corporation, start at £20,000. "I believe that systems such as this are a major benefit that Western technology can offer the Third World," said Fred Jones of CAB.

Pierce competition from low-priced



"I developed a cheap, ultra-powerful, high density logic chip, no bigger than a pin head - and they lost it"

imitation products has forced a prominent distributor of Apple computers in Singapore to stop sales. Since Darby Systems (SDS), sole distributor of the American-made Apple computers in

Singapore as well as the region, said the decision to stop sales followed insurmountable problems in establishing Apple machines in the face of low-priced pirate counterfeits and compatibles. While a basic Apple II starter system is quoted at about \$2,000 (£850), a look-alike could be easily found at about \$800.

The Comdex international software show and conference, previously held in Amsterdam, will be transferred to Nice from this year and will take place from June 10 to 12. Several hundred exhibitors will come from Europe, North America, Japan and Taiwan, says the organizer, Interface Group, which also runs similar events in the United States, Japan and Australia.

Jaguar Cars is using interactive video discs to familiarize its employees with robotics. The discs provide short visual sequences illustrating the principles of robotics, interspersed with questions to test the student's comprehension. Produced by the National Computing Centre in conjunction with

Jaguar, it has been sponsored by the Manpower Services Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry. The new course will soon be available to other organizations with a training requirement in industrial robotics.

The computer industry now has its own version of Who's Who. Though the two paperback volumes are somewhat less grand than the august original, the publisher, Input Typesetting, says its 8,000 entries cover a group of people responsible for more than £400 million worth of computer equipment. Who's Who in Computing costs £65 - further information from 01-543 7011.

Apollo Computers is promising to bridge the gap between personal computers and the expensive workstations with advanced graphics used for engineering and scientific applications. Its new Series 3000 unit, which starts at £3,500 for a black and white version and £14,000 for colour, is, says Rex Biagg of Apollo, "the first personal workstation for technical professionals".

UK events

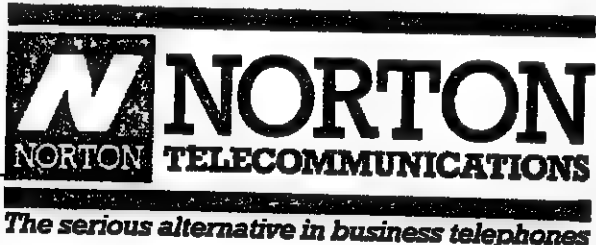
Cadpro 86, Novotel, Hammersmith, London W6, today until Thursday (01-690 3618)
 Demco Europe 86, Olympia 2, London, March 4-6 (01-403 1475)
 Asat Computer Show, Novotel, Hammersmith, London W6, March 7-9 (061-456 8835)
 Amstrad Computer Show, New Century Hall, Manchester, March 22-23 (061-456 8835)
 Info 86, Olympia, London, March 24-27 (01-647 1001)
 Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing Exhibition, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, April 8-10
 Scottish Computer Show, Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow, April 15-17 (01-891 5051)
 Computing Recruitment Fair, Novotel, Hammersmith, London W6, April 18-19 (0853 858811)
 Commodore Show, Novotel, Hammersmith, London W6, May 9-11, (061-456 8835)

Overseas

Cebit 86, Hannover Fair Complex, West Germany, March 12-19

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Sandpiper reveals consumer habits

By Matthew May

A computerized simulator that will predict how consumers will react to companies' marketing plans is the claim of a new service from Sandpiper Services. Described as a database of consumer attitudes and intentions, it will answer questions such as what consumers would do if they saw a particular pack design on a supermarket shelf, how they might respond to a new advertising campaign, or the effect on a company's sales of a competitor launching a similar product.

The service will be split into different product groups with the first, aimed at car manufacturers, already having gained nearly £900,000 worth of business, says Sandpiper, since its launch at the beginning of this year. Austin Rover, Ford, General Motors and Nissan have subscribed to the system which is likely to cost customers a minimum of £10,000.

A second system dealing with personal finance and aimed at banks, building societies and insurance companies has just been launched with Anglia as the first subscriber. The service was developed from a simulator called Scribe which produced a model of consumers' attitudes for individual companies. The database used is compiled by interviewing consumers. In the case of the car system 5,000 were questioned and the survey covers both rational and irrational aspects of consumer behaviour.

Sandpiper says that only 50 per cent of sales variations are due to rational or factual reasons. So it includes questions such as: If a man from General Motors walked through your front door what would you expect him to look like?

One of the advantages cited for using computer-based simulation packages is their ability to construct "hypothetical alternative future scenarios". But the company would not be drawn on what its system has to say about consumer attitudes to a hypothetical takeover of parts of British Leyland by a foreign competitor.



Homework: Ann Edwards, a maternity networker, at home with her workstation in Harefield, Middlesex; taken from the book Networking in Organizations

Now for armchair memos

By Richard Sarson

Management theorists, such as Alvin Toffler, Norman Macrae and Charles Handy, have been preaching for some time that the micro will change the nature of work. We will all work from home sending memos to our offices by electronic mail.

The office blocks of the city centres will be deserted as workers telecommute out in the suburbs. The large corporations will split into networks of co-operating homeworkers.

The practice behind the theory is described in a book published last month, *Networking in Organizations*. It is about a continuing experiment started in 1981 by Rank Xerox to let executives set up in business on their own as networkers and then sell their services to the company. The networkers spend about half a day each week at Rank Xerox and keep in touch electronically.

The company did this partly to reduce overheads. An employee costing £10,000 needs £17,000 in office space and other costs that could be

JOB SCENE

avoided if the executive was independent and worked from home.

The company also found that professional staff were saying to them: "Tell me what you want, when you want it, the standards by which you will judge the work and the value of it - but don't tell me how to do my job." They would be happier and more effective outside the bureaucracy.

There are now 54 networkers, six of whom are women. They came from the marketing, finance, personnel and management services teams. John Drew, one of the authors of the book, was director of corporate affairs before he became a networker. He is now also a part-time director of Touche Ross.

Networkers describe their financial, legal, technological and personal problems since going out on their own. The wives, husbands and children have their say. It has been a strain for some networkers,

particularly in working out new relationships with old colleagues.

The company had feared that some networkers would fall and that they would feel isolated. Neither has so far happened.

The main problem was unforeseen. Nobody had thought it necessary to train the team which negotiated the networkers' contracts and administered their progress. The team were confused by their new role. They became resentful of the media interest in the networkers. The networkers ran rings round them in fixing prices and became more adept at writing the computer network.

The networkers themselves believe they work harder now than they did under the corporate umbrella. And, because they are paid for the fruits of their labour, not just for putting in so many hours, their work has more sharpness and quality.

Networking in Organizations - the Rank Xerox Experiment, is published by Gower Publishing, £19.50.

The bad news for hackers

By Matthew May

For those companies concerned about the possibility of unauthorized access to their computer systems, which can range from teenage hackers to sophisticated financial fraud, there is now a monthly newsletter that specializes in the field.

Information Security Monitor describes its field as high technology fraud and piracy issues and is collecting details on computer fraud in the City. The current issue includes a case history by a reformed amateur hacker, now a professional computer consultant, who started his career having discovered that logging on to one system as Field and using the password Service would give access to the passwords of every user.

Many computer systems still have a few users with simple or obvious passwords,

such as 1234, that are a boon to those up to no good.

A more complex example is the so-called dumb trap where the hacker writes a program that simulates the log on sequence of a company mainframe.

When a legitimate user enters a login code and password, the information is placed in a file for later inspection by the hacker.

So far the publication, which costs £155 a year, has about 100 subscribers, including banks and building societies.

And proving that truth is often stranger than fiction, the co-director of the publishers, Broadway Publications, is one Richard Hacker.

Further information: tel 0733 47366.

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 Track 2: Optical Read Only Memory Systems
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مكتبة من الأصول

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Practical Computing - January 1986

“The Apricot XEN is a pleasure to use. It's fast and effective - showing off both the 80286 built-in processor and Windows software to their best advantage... This is the best machine the company has ever produced.”

Which Computer? - January 1986

“It was the speed of the system which impressed me the most... you can forget just how much work the machine is really having to do.”

PCW - January 1986

There's a lot of talk about the new Apricot XEN. Experts, normally restrained in their praise, are becoming unusually enthusiastic.

Phrases like “in a league of its own” and “incredible value for money” are being used.

So why is Apricot XEN so special?

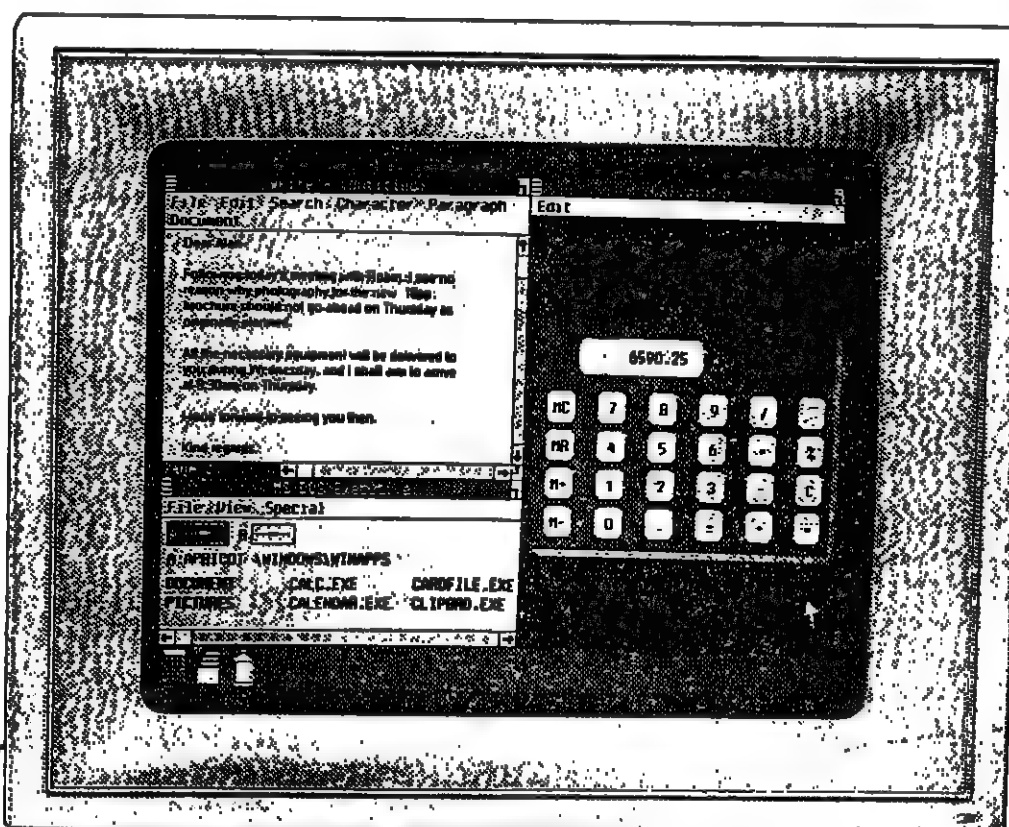
Because of its astonishing performance, for one thing. Apricot XEN has come out on top in every test so far. In an article measuring computer power, the Guardian decided that something called “processor memory bandwidth” was the most accurate yardstick. Naturally, Apricot XEN achieved the highest score, even beating one of the leading minicomputer systems to the mark.

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But what has really caught the imagination of the computer industry is how little this powerful machine costs.



With multi-tasking Microsoft Windows as standard, a twin floppy disk XEN FD with 512K of RAM and a monitor can cost as little as £2494, while the XEN HD with a 720K floppy drive, 20 Megabyte hard disk and a full 1 Megabyte of RAM is an astonishing £3494.

When Apricot offers this kind of value, the competition will have to take a long look at their own prices - if they expect you even to glance at them.

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And XEN's open architecture means it can run on Apricot Networks, and even run as a multi-user system under the Xenix operating system.

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 **apricot XEN**

By Frank Brown

Electronic shopping for bank customers

The electronic cash society could become a reality for bank account holders in the 1990s as a result of an experiment in electronic shopping which Midland Bank has started in Milton Keynes.

Speedline enables shoppers to pay for up to £200 worth of goods and services a week from various shops, stores and petrol stations in the Milton Keynes area, without using cash or cheques. They will also be able to draw cash from their bank accounts at the same time, providing the retailer has opted to offer such service.

Instead of cheques, shoppers will use their Midland Clydesdale or Northern Bank autocheque or autobank card, or their NatWest service card, and a process known as electronic funds transfer at the point of sale. Eftpos for short.

Speedline will also accept certain credit cards, including Access and Midland Group Gold Mastercards.

To pay for a purchase the customer gives his card to the checkout assistant who slides it through a card reader and enters the amount into the point of sale terminal. The customer then enters his personal identification number (pin) on a keypad.

Access card holders who do not have a pin can authorize the transaction by signing a special voucher produced by the terminal.

The terminal is linked directly to the bank's computer centre in London where the system uses the information to verify the transaction electronically. If the customer's bank or credit card account has sufficient funds, the system transfers the cost of the goods from his account to the retailer's bank account. It then produces a receipt showing the payment and how much of the weekly limit has been spent.

The whole process takes less than 30 seconds without the need for a shop assistant to complete any paperwork.

Some 30 Speedline terminals are due to be installed during the next few months in a variety of retail outlets in Milton Keynes and Northampton. The first, at the BP service station in Chids Way, Milton Keynes, is already in operation.

Speedline is the first experiment undertaken by the major UK clearing banks as a prelude to developing a national Eftpos network.

The experiment is co-sponsored by the Committee of London and Scottish clearing banks and is expected to run for at least two years. The results will add to the experience already gained by Counterplus, Britain's first Eftpos system, which has been successfully operated in Scotland by Clydesdale Bank (a subsidiary of the Midland) with BP since 1982.

Nixdorf Computer, the West German company that is supplying the POS equipment for Speedline, has already installed retail Eftpos systems in Spain, Norway, Italy and Germany.

Singapore has had a larger, comparable system in operation for the past month - Neis (Network for Electronic Transfers).

A big lift for portables

From Geoff Wheelwright, in Venice

The portable computer industry was given a major boost last week with the announcement of two new offerings from Compaq and Olivetti. The launch of the two machines last week highlighted dramatically the differences in portable computer philosophy which cut right across the industry.

While everyone realizes that the first generation of large, luggable PCs needs to be reduced, there are deep divisions within the industry about whether that can be accomplished by a laptop computer.

The first to be launched was Compaq's Portable II computer - a luggable micro which is 30 per cent smaller than the company's existing best seller and almost 20 per cent lighter. It is designed to be compatible with the IBM AT computer and will sell in three different models, starting at £2,700.

But within 24 hours of Compaq's launch Olivetti challenged the former's claim by announcing its M-22, battery operated laptop which, it

says, is IBM-compatible. It uses a backlit liquid crystal display screen, includes a built-in 5.25in computer disc drive and up to 1 megabyte of memory.

Like many other portable computers released in recent months the computer can only have one built-in disc drive if it is to achieve the eight-hour maximum battery life offered. More interesting, however, is a hard disc option which replaces the battery pack with a 10 megabyte information storage device.

While the new Compaq machine is available from this week, the new Olivetti M22 will not be shipped until just after June. But Olivetti does promise that the starting price range for its machine will be about £1,700.

Compaq's shrinking and upgrading of its existing portable PC design is a much safer option.

Running up a hi-tech bill

By Ruth Harris

It was my children who dragged me into the computer age; they had an ulterior motive. The limitations of the family BBC B microcomputer were beginning to irk. They needed a disc drive to improve it and decided mother was a softer bet than dad.

And I was easily persuaded, looking back. Anything was preferable to bashing out yet another draft of my novel on my ancient non-electric typewriter. And a program called Nordwise, the children assured me, had been invented for simple brains like mine. All I had to do was buy the things they had listed - printer, monitor, disc drive, discs - and then, hey presto! the finished manuscript would emerge in a matter of days.

The total cost was mind-boggling to a writer who does not aspire to Jeffrey Archer's sales, but they said there would be nothing extra - "and think how much you'll save on Tippex!"

It wasn't true, of course. Expense piled on expense. Within the first week I discovered I was unable to underline without a printer driver. To spend hundreds of pounds on a printing system and then discover that I had to pay more just to be able to underline struck me as something akin to fraud.

Weeks later, when I came to print out the final draft, I discovered that the paper crept sideways across the roller with the result that the text, centred at the beginning of the chapter, was walking off the right-hand side of the paper by the chapter end. This furtive movement could be stopped, I was told, by fixing a paper support to the printer.

Cost? Believe it or not, and I couldn't at first, £100. Other printers had cheaper supports but I happened to be stuck with this one.

Apart from these two items which I felt should have been included at the start, was I being sold a complete word-processing system or was I not? The running expenses were horrific - printer ribbons, vast quantities of discs,

make a back-up of every one. I was told, and as for paper, I must have got through an entire Finnish forest in my studies with the printer.

But I was happily ignorant of all this at the outset or I might not have despatched my husband quite so cheerfully to a computer stockist near his office.

Mistake number one. As I was the main user we should have chosen somewhere within my reach rather than his. Mistake number two was sending my husband at all. He's the salesman's dream. This particular salesman persuaded him that I didn't want the W program. I wanted one called V and so that's what he came back with.

I'm still not sure whether I would have been better off with W. I do know that it took me several weeks to master V, at a time when I was desperate to get to work on the final draft. The real problem was that I had no one to ask and the instruction book that came with V was inadequate.

There were, in fact, two instruction books, both saying more or less the same thing although one gave diagrams of the keyboard showing where the keys were - gratuitous

information. I couldn't help thinking. Both books assumed, wrongly, in my case, that the user (a) understood computers and (b) was not a typist. A lot of the problems I had stemmed from those assumptions.

An example: my own typewriter has no figure 1. I automatically type the lower case L for I and did so when I wanted the printer to use double spacing which requires the instruction LSI. Of course the computer ignored my instruction and despite frantic repeat commands on my part continued to print out in single spacing. There was no way I could find out why until my 13-year-old returned from school at the end of the day. One look at the monitor screen and "Oh Mum!"

Ridiculous, you will say and it was, and maddening, too. There were numerous examples of that sort of thing which raised my blood pressure several notches. If I telephoned the shop to ask advice I was told, "it can't do that... you've made a mistake, it doesn't do that" and there was no point in my saying, "But it does."

Now I find that the manual is not technical enough. My son has been able to produce



'The real problem was that I had no one to ask for advice'

Security date gets nearer

Pressure is being exerted on the private and public sectors to ensure that proper levels of security are incorporated into databases housing sensitive information.

The Data Protection Registrar has revealed that only 10,000 computer users have registered. The registrar is hoping that there will be an avalanche of registrations before the deadline expires on May 11.

However it is becoming increasingly obvious that a substantial number of the operators or owners of the 300,000 computer databases in the UK are unaware that they must register or face criminal penalties.

A conference at Oxford last week attempted to highlight the legal and moral aspects of the legislation as it affects doctors. In some ways they are typical of the non-computer conscious users who are still trying to come to terms with the implications of the new legislation.

Data protection in medicine has been one of the most sensitive subjects debated since the legislation was ever proposed. Delegates to the conference learned - many for the first time - about the law and the implications

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

Technology Correspondent

which registration will have on research, primary care, general practice, nursing and clinical medicine.

The Oxford delegates also learned that there still are many areas of the Data Protection Act which have yet to be made clear to doctors. That was emphasized last week too by the chairman of the National Consumer Council, Michael Montague.

The council, in a letter to the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS), called on the Government not to seek an exception for medical records.

The 1984 legislation allows consumers to have the right after November next year to see personal files stored on computer.

The Government is consulting medical and consumer organizations about the restrictions which might be imposed on access to medical records.

Mr Montague said: "Everyone should have the right to know what's in their medical records. The vital principle of open access to personal files is already enshrined in law. We are urging the department not to make an exception for health records. Handwritten case notes not covered by the Act should be subject to the same principle."

There should be only one exception to the general rule of free access, and that is where there is a danger of causing further harm to a mentally ill person.

The medical debate is clearly being emulated in other areas. The Data Protection Registrar published its first list of registrations last week. The list is now only available at the registrar's offices in Cheshire. The intention is to publish the list in main public libraries.

Last week the software company Logica was awarded a contract to evaluate security procedures and systems of government computers holding sensitive information.

A separate contract has been given to Admiral Computing. Both have been awarded by the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) which is responsible for advising government departments on levels of security.

The Americans have been particularly active through the US National Security Agency in improving the computer security of US government departments. The American authorities have recently been concerned about the level of security in British government agencies.

That feeling clearly applies to computers and the UK is striving to ensure that it matches American standards.

Boost for quality in pictures

Two major Japanese electronics firms have claimed to be the world's first in developing fast, large-capacity semiconductor chips for use in computers and office automation equipment.

Toshiba said it has developed a prototype of the world's first one-megabit static random access memory (sram) chip for use in computers and office automation equipment.

The company said the new chip has a capacity four times larger than any sram developed and can store 130,000 alpha-numeric characters or up to four pages of a standard-sized newspaper.

New chip has huge capacity

The new chip, which uses a transistor and a capacitor, is designed primarily for use in portable computers, personal computers and other office automation equipment.

Company officials said it will eventually replace the 64k and 256k srams now in use. Samples will be available in about one year and products will be ready for shipment a year later, they said.

Matsushita Electric said its subsidiary has developed the world's first one-megabit dynamic ram chip specially for use in digital video equipment such as digital TVs and video tape-recorders and computer graphic systems.

The chip was developed by Matsushita Electronics, a subsidiary of the giant Osaka-based manufacturer of Panasonic and National products. One pair of the new chips can do tasks that need 32 64k chips, the company said.

The newly developed chip will bring about significant increases in picture quality and functions of digital video equipment, it said.

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COMPANY COMMERCIAL AND
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LAWYERS

We are looking for partnership calibre solicitors with relevant experience for our expanding Company Commercial and Commercial Property Departments in our London office. For each post a minimum 2 years' experience since qualification is required but both vacancies may be of interest to more senior applicants with an established clientele in the relevant field.

Please write with CV to:-

Gordon R. Jones
CHURCH ADAMS TATHAM & Co.
10/12 Ely Place
London EC1.

PICKERING KENYON

SOLICITORS
COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

1 year qualified to assist in expanding Company/Commercial department. City Articles and/or experience an advantage.

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING

2 years qualified to assist in Commercial Conveyancing department.

CONVEYANCING

Newly qualified to assist Senior Conveyancing Partner with General Conveyancing work. Salary according to age and experience. Applicants to write with full CVs to N.M. Sell, Pickering Kenyon, 22/24 Great James Street, London, WC1N 3EL.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Use your professional skills to co-ordinate a major and fast growing property portfolio

WEST END

Neg c£25,000 + car

The Ladbroke Group is one of Britain's top 100 and Europe's top 200 companies. It continues to develop through its major core businesses - hotels, property investment and retail banking - all of which operate internationally.

Ladbroke City and County Land Company and Ladbroke Group Properties form the property divisions of the Group which is firmly established as one of the UK's leading developers. Poised for major growth, we now wish to appoint an experienced Conveyancing Lawyer to join our highly professional management team. Reporting to the Commercial Director and deputising for him, the principal responsibilities of this position centre on establishing a reporting and monitoring system for the timely execution of all stages of a wide range of property transactions. This will involve a high degree of liaison and the provision of advice to

senior executives, the Group's central legal department and outside solicitors. Professionally qualified applicants aged between 30 and 45 should have a broad background and have also specialised in property law within either private practice or within a commercial property company. The successful candidate will also possess the stature to operate at very senior level whilst at the same time have well developed administrative skills.

The salary offered will be negotiable circa £25,000 pa and the benefit package will include company car, executive share option, SAVE and employee share schemes. Additionally, our continued growth and diversification provide excellent opportunities for further career development. Please send a full CV with details of current salary to Vic Giffin, Director of Human Resources, Ladbroke Group PLC, 87 Whitpole Street, London W1M 7DB.

Ladbroke Group PLC

Employment and Commercial Law

circa £13,000

With Sainsbury's increasing expansion we are now seeking to strengthen our Legal Department at Head Office in Blackfriars.

We are looking for a graduate solicitor or barrister who preferably has one year's post-qualification commercial law exposure in a solicitor's office or equivalent. Experience in employment law is essential; advocacy highly desirable. A knowledge of consumer and environmental health law in the context of local authority litigation would be an advantage.

You would join a small, highly motivated team as Legal Officer and assist in providing a corporate legal service to the Company, its subsidiaries and associates.

A salary in the region of £13,000 would be supported by a range of benefits, including profit sharing and share option schemes (after a qualifying period), BUPA, and subsidised restaurant.

For an application form please phone or write to: Chris Ward, Recruitment Manager, J Sainsbury plc, Stamford House, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LL. Tel: 01-921 7518.

SAINSBURY'S



GOVERNMENT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS CAYMAN ISLANDS LAW SCHOOL - LECTURER IN LAW

The Public Service Commissioners invite applications for the post of Lecturer in Law at the Cayman Islands Law School. The appointment will be on contract terms for an initial period of two years, commencing on 1 September 1986.

Candidates should have a law degree, teaching experience and preferably have a professional qualification in law.

The salary of the post is in the scale of C\$20,916 - C\$26,840 per annum, the point of entry depending upon age and experience. No income tax is payable in the Cayman Islands and C\$1 = US\$1.20. The Government will meet 50% of the officer's rent up to a ceiling of C\$1,000 per month gross.

Application forms, together with job description and notes on conditions of service including housing, medical benefits, passages and baggage entitlement, are available from:

The Cayman Islands Government Representative
Hambledon House
17th Curzon Street
London W1Y 7FE
Tel: 01-488 2482

Applications should be completed and returned by Friday 14 March.

CORPORATE SOLICITORS

EDWARDS GELDARD SOLICITORS

Last century, Cardiff became the coal and shipping capital of the world; subsequently the steel industry maintained the City's position in the forefront of commerce and industry in this Country. During our 150 years in Cardiff, we have participated fully in these industries. Now Cardiff and Wales are again the focus in developing high technology, using internationally developed technology. They benefit from locally and nationally available investment resources. This has resulted in management buy-outs and large capitalisation programmes, which together with the attractions of the United Securities Market have contributed to a transformation of commercial life. Cardiff is now expanding as a commercial, financial and professional centre to which we play a leading role.

We are now a seventeen partner firm, and we invite applications from able, energetic and self-motivated solicitors who wish to specialise in the following fields:-

COMPANY COMMERCIAL

Successful candidates will join teams undertaking work on a full range of company and commercial transactions for public and private companies, including companies based abroad; there will be particular opportunities in investment and recovery work.

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING

The department deals with all aspects of commercial conveyancing (including planning) and has a rapidly expanding workload.

Although we are looking for candidates with up to two years experience in these fields, those who are about to qualify and have the ability and desire to learn quickly, should also apply. We do not anticipate that the remuneration package for successful candidates will be a problem, and there are definitely opportunities of advancement within the firm.

All replies will be treated in confidence.

Please write now, with full CV, to:-
R.J. Thomas, Partner
19 St. Andrew Street,
Cardiff CF1 1EL.

Young Solicitors

Michael Page Partnership's Legal Division acts for a wide variety of clients both in private practice and in industry, in London and the provinces.

Our extensive client contacts and the high professional standards of our legally qualified consultants combine to provide the best possible service for solicitors seeking a career change.

If you would like to find out more about the opportunities that are available through us, or would simply like an informal career discussion, please telephone Laurence Simons, Simon Anderson or Huw Frederickson on 01-831 2000 (01-802 8730 evenings/weekends) or write to The Legal Division, Michael Page Partnership (UK), 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Strictest confidentiality assured.

MP

Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants
London/Warwick Street/Bromwich/Manchester/Leeds/Glasgow
Bromwich New York/Sydney
A member of the Addison Page PLC group

PETER CARTER-RUCK AND PARTNERS ASSISTANT SOLICITORS

We shall shortly be appointing further Assistant Solicitors in our High Court Litigation, Property and Commercial Departments. Applicants with at least two years' post-qualification experience and of outstanding ability should apply, enclosing full curriculum vitae to:-

The Partnership Secretary
Essex House, Essex Street
Strand, WC2R 3AH
Tel: 01-379 3456

COMPANY MANAGEMENT

Young well-qualified, qualified lawyers required for early appointment to the role of Company Management. Salary c. £12,000 pa. Ideal for those with some experience. Please send CV to: R.J. Thomas, Partner, 19 St. Andrew Street, Cardiff CF1 1EL.

The Company Secretary
Select Corporate Services Ltd.
Homer House, 3 Mount Pleasant
Douglas, Isle of Man



CONVEYANCERS

Following a substantial increase in institutional work, Lemon & Partners require two experienced conveyancers. One will handle a large volume of residential work, mainly for employees of a major U.S. Bank. The other will deal largely with institutional lending both in relation to residential developments and commercial property ventures. Enthusiasm, efficiency, commitment and the ability to work largely unsupervised will be rewarded by salaries commensurate with those of large City practices. Solicitors and legal executives will be considered.

Full CV to Giles Courtenay-Evans, Lemon & Partners, 46 Hertford Street, London W1Y 7TF 01-409 2299.

COMMERCIAL SOLICITOR

c.£20,000 + car

Opportunity in industry for young solicitor with experience in commercial law to handle wide-ranging work including drafting and negotiating agreements for joint ventures, intellectual property, distribution, etc.; company law, employment law, marketing law, property work and some company secretarial duties. Location: West London. Position reports to Legal Director. Salary negotiable plus company car. Please send personal details to Chambers & Partners, 74 Long Lane EC1A 3JF or telephone us on 01-06 9371.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

Computer Appointments

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Leading developer of VAX software work programmer for support of information and system management software, strong VAX hardware and external communications skills required. Immediate location near Reading.

Send CV to:

R. J. Jones,
Technical Recruitment Software Ltd
7 Darnley Lane
Old Basing
Basingstoke,
Hampshire,
RG24 0DJ

INFORMATION SERVICES CONSULTANTS

Central London

INPUT LTD is an international organisation providing consultancy services for the information services industry. INPUT requires consultants to work on its research programmes on the information services and customer service markets. Responsibilities include researching information services issues with vendors and users of computers, analysis of data, forecasts and business trends, report writing and client enquiries, computer services. We require candidates with a good degree and demonstrable writing and presentation abilities.

Successful candidates will have worked in Computer Services or with a Major Hardware manufacturer, and have business planning or research experience.

Fluency in French or German would be an advantage.

Salary will be negotiable subject to qualifications and experience.

Please write or telephone enclosing a brief CV with compensation history, to Peter Jones, Manager of Programmes, INPUT LTD, 41 Dover Street, London W1Y 3ER. Tel: 01-493 9338. Ref: IT 11-86.

INPUT

BARRISTERS

Law reporting is important and challenging work and makes a satisfying career.

Vacancy for full time law reporter on the Law Reports, part time vacancy for practitioner in Chancery or Commercial chambers.

Revised fee scale.

CV to: The Editor, Incorporated Council of Law Reporting, 3 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3XH.

BANKING

Solicitor required for main banking work and to assist with general - commercial. Competitive salary according to experience.

Apply with CV to: NAYDEN APPLIN CHAMBER S. GILBERT, BANKING, 3/5 RUPPE ROAD, BARNHAM, ESSEX. TEL: 0464 3464.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL: City. Many opportunities for newly qualified solicitors with 1-2 years' experience. Salary c. £13,000. Court. Applicants to send CV to: 01-831 2000.

LITIGATION: Commercial. Newly qualified solicitors preferred for commercial litigation. Salary c. £13,000. Court. Applicants to send CV to: 01-831 2000.

CONVEYANCING ASSISTANT

For a busy expanding practice in Barnet. Must be able to handle both domestic and commercial conveyancing, working conditions with a friendly and hard working staff.

Write with CV to: BOX 520.

NEW FOREST practice need young all rounder with some conveyancing experience. £12,000. Wokingham. Hampshire. 0462 25183.

COMMON LAW: Advise for 1-2 years' experience. Salary c. £12,000. Wokingham. Hampshire. 0462 25183.

AMBITION LITIGATOR

Solicitor with at least two years' relevant experience to take over and develop litigation work in a busy City law firm. Salary c. £12,000. Wokingham. Hampshire. 0462 25183.

FREE LIST at country solicitors. Tel: 01-409 2299.

MORTGAGE: Advise for legal mortgage work. Salary c. £12,000. Wokingham. Hampshire. 0462 25183.

SOLICITOR: Advise for 1-2 years' experience. Salary c. £12,000. Wokingham. Hampshire. 0462 25183.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax AM**. Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott on the EastEnders set celebrating the series' first anniversary. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55; regional news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 7.20 and 8.20; Junior Advice Line at 7.30, followed by the adult version approximately an hour later; and a review of the morning newspapers at 8.37. Plus, Alan Titchmarsh's gardening hints and Glynis Christian with a recipe.
- 9.20 **Cee-fax 10.30**. Play School (10.50) Cee-fax. After Noon with Richard Wainwright and Frances Caverdale. Includes news headlines with subtitles 12.55 onwards.
- 1.00 **Pebble Mill at One**. Dr David Delvin discusses his series on ante-natal care; there is an item on why parents are changing from cow's milk to sheep's for their babies; the cooking exercises with Emyr Hughes; and French author Dominique Lapierre talks about Calcutta's 'City of Joy' one of the world's poorest places. A Sea-See programme for the very young, presented by Fred Harvey.
- 2.00 **The Goodie Kitchen**. Shirley Goodie prepares chicken cacciatore, Spanish chorizo, meringue, crumble and rum and raisin cake. 2.15 **The Parent Programme**. Advice for harassed mothers and fathers of under-fives. 2.30 **Cee-fax 3.50** Regional news.
- 3.55 **Postman Pat** (1.4.10) Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon version (1.4.15) Jackanory. Television with part two of Dick Smith's *The Sheep-Pig* (1.4.25) *Ant and Dec*. The series presented by Terry Nott.
- 5.00 **John Craven's Newsworld** 5.10 *Grange Hill*. Episode 15 and Mr Craven's update over the literary books (Cee-fax) 5.35. *Faxi*. Bill Oddie and his team solve another selection of bones of contention.
- 6.00 **News with Sue Lawley** and Nicholas Witchell.
- 6.35 **London Plus**. 6.45 **Holiday**, introduced by Cliff Michelmore. There is news of a holiday on a dude ranch in Devon; a holiday package on the Portuguese Algarve; and a cruise on a square rigged as well as the handicapped.
- 7.30 **Eastenders**. In this first anniversary edition Den is seen in suspicious circumstances (Cee-fax) 7.50. One by One. Turner is in the South of France when he meets an old friend (1.4.10) (Cee-fax) 7.50. **Points of View**. Barry Took takes a clip into the BBC's postbox.
- 9.00 **News with John Somerville** and Andrew Harvey.
- 9.30 **Seaway**. Episode three and with the police and the local Camden Town villains on the look-out for Colin, his daughter Tracey, and the isolated life, has an argument with her father and runs back to London. (Cee-fax) 10.20 **Film 86**. Barry Norman reviews *Car Trouble* and *Forbidden*.
- 10.50 **Nothing But the Best**. A parents' guide to secondary education (see Choice).
- 11.15 **Late Night in Concert**. Ozzy Osbourne recorded in Salt Lake City (1.4.10).
- 11.45 **Weather**.

TV-AM

- 6.15 **Good Morning Britain**, presented by Nick Owen. Diamond and Nick Owen. 6.30 **News** with Gordon Newscombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; regional report at 7.15; cartoon at 7.24; pop video at 7.55; film review at 8.34; Moya Doherty's ruminations at 8.45; *Gilman de Terville*, a page 3 girl, at 9.04; and model-turned-author, Pat Booth, at 9.12.
- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**, 9.30 **For Schools**: ways of speaking about the past. For the hearing impaired 9.50 **The natural history of the seaside** 10.05 **The skill of the glider** 10.25 **German conversation for beginners** 10.48 **The nature of democratic freedom** 11.10 **The role of computers in everyday life** 11.27 **How we move** and 11.44 **English poetry** by children from the Ford Estate, Merseyside.
- 12.00 **Button Moon**. Puppet adventures of the Spoon noddle. For the very young. 12.10 **How to learn** made fun by puppets (1.4.10) **The Sullivan**.
- 1.00 **News at One** with Leonard Ross. 1.10 **Thames news**, presented by Fred Harvey. 1.30 **Shine On Harvey Moon**. Comedy drama serial about an ex-gangster coming to terms with London life after the Second World War (1.4.10).
- 2.30 **Paytime**. Sarah Kennedy chairs a studio discussion in a matter of topical importance 3.00 **That's My Dog**. Canine quiz presented by Derek Hobson. 3.15 **Thames news headlines** 3.30 **The Young Doctors**.
- 4.00 **Button Moon**. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.00. 4.10 **The Will the Winner**. 4.20 **The Will the Winner**. Animated series based on the Kenneth Grahame tale (Oracle) 4.45. Includes more clues in the Detective Superstudies competition. 5.15 **Blockbusters** presented by Bob Holmes. 5.30 **Thames news**. 5.45 **News** 5.55 **Thames news**. 6.00 **News** 6.15 **Thames news**.
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ITV/LONDON

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- 11.45 **Weather**.

BBC 2

- 6.55 **Open University: Science into the Earth**. Ends at 7.20. 7.20 **Cee-fax**. 7.30 **Daytime on Two**: for the moderately mentally handicapped young adult. 7.35 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 7.40 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 7.45 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 7.50 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 7.55 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.00 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.05 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.10 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.15 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.20 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.25 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.30 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.35 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.40 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.45 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.50 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 8.55 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 9.00 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 9.05 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 9.10 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 9.15 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 9.20 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 9.25 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 9.30 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 9.35 **Spanish**: how to speak it. 9.40 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Cheaper home loans at bank

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

National Westminster, the biggest mortgage lender among the high street banks, yesterday announced that it is abolishing the premium of half a percentage point it has been charging on endowment home loans.

The move may herald the abolition of the much criticized endowment premium by other banks and building societies, making endowment loans as cheap as ordinary repayment loans.

NatWest is cutting its endowment rate from 13.5 per cent to 13 per cent with immediate effect for new borrowers and from March 1 for existing borrowers. This will reduce monthly repayments on endowment loans by 30p per £1,000 borrowed.

The bank has 130,000 borrowers, and has lent around £3.4 billion for house purchase. Around 12 per cent of NatWest borrowers have endowment loans.

Mr Philip Gille, general manager of NatWest's domestic banking division, said: "We are retaining our position as the leading bank in the mortgage finance market."

The change reflects strong competition in the mortgage market. Of the other big four clearing banks, Lloyds has already introduced the same rate of interest on new endowment mortgages, but existing borrowers continue to pay a premium.

Barclays is expected to announce a similar move to NatWest's in the near future. The Halifax, the biggest building society, said yesterday that it might have to abolish the 0.5 per cent premium it charges on endowment loans, depending on what other competitors did. But Mr David Gilchrist, a general manager, gave a warning that the disappearance of the endowment premium would probably lead to a general rise in all mortgage rates of 0.25 per cent to make up for the loss in revenue.

Queen hit by egg in Auckland protest

From Stephen Taylor
Auckland

Yesterday's ugly incident in which the Queen was hit on the thigh by an egg thrown from a crowd has served as a grim reminder of her vulnerability to fanatics, as protests degenerated the first round of official engagements on the Royal tour to New Zealand.

Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, issued a statement last night in which he said such forms of protest were deplorable and unacceptable.

He would be apologizing to the Queen on behalf of the New Zealand Government and people, he said, but was confident that the present level of security was adequate.

Police said last night that two women, aged 21 and 20, would appear in Auckland District Court today on charges of assault and disorderly behaviour.

Missiles have been thrown at the Queen before, but it is thought this was the first time she has been hit.

She looked momentarily distressed by the incident, which occurred as she was circling a race course and waving to a crowd of about 42,000 schoolchildren from an open vehicle, but quickly regained her composure.

Mr Michael Shea, her Press Secretary, said later she had been "completely unfazed" and that there would be no changes in the royal schedule.

Later in the day she and the Duke of Edinburgh went on a walkabout in Auckland city centre amid far tighter security precautions than had been evident earlier in the day.

Small but vicious groups of protesters continued to follow the royal entourage with placards bearing anti-royalist slogans, and a civic welcome was repeatedly interrupted by calls of "Go home Liz".

The demonstrators included IRA sympathizers but were mainly protesting at what they claim are abuses of the Treaty of Waitangi under which in 1840 Maori chiefs ceded settlement rights to Britain in return for certain concessions. The majority of the protesters seemed to be whites rather than Maori.

The egg-throwing occurred at Ellerslie race course where schoolchildren from all over New Zealand were lining the circuit. As the vehicle carrying the Queen and Prince Philip



Momentarily distressed, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh wipe egg from her coat.

passed two young women dressed in what appeared to be official white coats each threw an egg.

One hit the Queen on the right thigh, splattering her pink coat, the other shattered on the vehicle's windscreen.

A female spectator made a lunge at the women, who were quickly seized and bundled away by police. Another distraught bystander called "How could you, how could you?"

As they were hustled off I asked one of the women what she had intended. She replied: "They come here but they don't honour the Treaty. It's a complete rip-off."

The vehicle carrying the royal couple continued on its way, and a great majority of the crowd had no inkling of what had taken place. But a small group of protesters appeared with signs carrying slogans like "Royal tours support racism."

Further along the route, flowers were tossed at the Queen. By the time she alighted

she looked perfectly composed.

In the afternoon she and Prince Philip were given a civic welcome. Auckland has the biggest concentration of Pacific Islanders in the world and the community of Samoans, Tongans and Cook Islanders in traditional dress.

About 20 or 30 protesters were still in evidence, however, and a speech by the Mayor of Auckland was heckled.

Since the incident in the morning the number of security men and policemen in attendance had swelled considerably.

There were no further incidents during the royal walkabout. A large crowd responded enthusiastically and was clearly angered and distressed by the actions of the protesters.

Police expect more demonstrations in Wellington where the royal party flies today and the organizers are indicating there may be other what they term "individual acts of protest."



Police arrest a young woman after the incident.

Letter from Kampala Ugandan soldier of misfortune

Lieutenant Colonel Olanya Djara is a sad figure. He sits alone staring blankly or wanders about looking for someone to talk to. He has just been told that his family has been wiped out.

He was the Uganda National Liberation Army Commander at Masaka Garrison in the months leading up to the take over by the National Resistance Army. The Masaka Barracks were under siege for several weeks before Lieutenant Colonel Olanya was forced to surrender. It was a hard time.

The UNLA tried to fly in food and supplies by helicopter, but Colonel Olanya complained that most of the drops fell into NRA hands. His troops were hungry and demoralized.

After his surrender he was taken to Kampala and put up in one of the best hotels in town, as have many officers from the former regime. He still wears his uniform and carries a handgun. He is a hard looking man, used to power and attention.

An Acholi by birth, he joined the Uganda Army in 1969 as an officer cadet. Two years later, when Idi Amin seized power, he was caught by Amin's men who were carrying out a purge of Acholi officers in the Army. Badly wounded and taken for dead, he was driven in a truck loaded with corpses to be dumped in a swamp. He managed to jump out and was fired on, but he escaped into the bush and got to Sudan.

He made his way back to his village and lived there quietly under an assumed name until Amin was overthrown in 1979.

"When there is a change of government in American or Britain, the Army does not change," he said. "But here every time the leader changes, the Army changes. So we have FUNA (the former Uganda National Army which was Amin's army), UNLA (the Army which drove Amin from power and became the National Army under Obote), and now NRA (Museveni's Army). Why should we not have just

one army serving Uganda?" Colonel Olanya said he would be happy to serve in any capacity the NRA saw fit for him. It is the standard reply of most captured UNLA officers. But when asked about the atrocities the UNLA carried out he became tense and defensive. Now he himself is a victim of them.

Two days ago he set off for Jinja to find his wife and two children, whom he left at the barracks there in November. He could not find them, but was told that they had tried to flee to Soroti in January as the NRA advanced. They had been caught at a UNLA roadblock and identified as Colonel Olanya's family. "This is the one who betrayed us," the soldiers are reported to have said before killing them.

"I have a strong heart. I can get another wife and children," Colonel Olanya's voice cracked. He seems like a man who has been hurt for the first time in his life. "Why should they kill children? What could they do. What have they done?"

A Ugandan journalist who had just come from Soroti tried to reassure him that if such an incident had taken place he was sure to have heard about it. He was unconvinced. Too many women and children have been casually butchered in the past few weeks on that road by the retreating soldiers. There have been numerous reports that they have turned their guns on each other.

There was awkwardness between the two men: the soldier from the north and the journalist from the south. They had no common language but English.

After the colonel had gone the journalist said: "It is hard not to feel sorry for him but this man lived by the gun all his life. Perhaps he was one of the ones who used to go round shooting open pregnant women saying they were looking for NRA bandits. You would not believe it, but it happened. It was done by men like him."

Richard Dowden

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince and Princess of Wales attend the Beethoven gala concert at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, 7.30. Princess Anne addresses the Annual Convention of the Institute of Directors, Royal Albert Hall, 12; and then visits Planeview (trading as Mark Anthony), London, 3; and later dines with The Chesham Dining Club, St. Ermin's Hotel, London, 7.

The Duke of Gloucester opens the new Central Library, Ilford, Essex, 3. Princess Alexandra presents the Sports Personality of the Year awards at BFBS Radio and SSVC Television, the Royal Army Medical College, Millbank, SW1.

Last chance to see Open Exhibition: artists of the South-west, Tate Gallery, 10 to 1 and 2 to 4.30.

New exhibitions

It's all Writ out for You: the life and work of Scottie Wilson; Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (ends March 27). Mainly watercolours by Pat Sharp, Collingwood College, Durham; Mon to Fri 9 to 5 (ends March 16).

As Time goes by: US Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends April 1).

Jewish personalities in British life: The Sternberg Centre for Judaism, The Manor House, 80 East End Road, N3; Mon to Thurs 10 to 5, Fri 10 to 2, Sun 10 to 1 (ends March 16).

Exhibitions in progress: Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers Open exhibition of contemporary prints; Banksie Gallery, South-west, Falmouth Art Gallery, 10 to 1 and 2 to 4.30.

Max Ernst: Histoire

Naturelle: Experiment with Proteases, The Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Burslem; Tues 1 to 5.30, Wed to Sun 10 to 5.30 (ends March 16). John Bellamy: recent portraits; National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6 (ends May 18). Sculptures by Jan Wallis; South Square Gallery, Thornton, Bradford; Tues to Fri 11 to 1 and 2 to 5, Sat and Sun 2 to 4.30 (ends March 21).

Music

Organ recital by Thomas Trotter, Westminster College Chapel, 7.30.

Organ recital by David Flood, Town Hall, Leeds, 1.05.

Recital by the Royal Academy of Music, Southwark Cathedral, SE1, 1.10.

Piano recital by Richard McMahon, 1.05; Concert by the London Sinfonietta, 7.30; St. David's Hall, Cardiff.

Piano recital by Dominic Scilgman, Chichester Cathedral, 1.10.

Recital by Domus Piano Quartet, Bishopsgate Hall, 230 Bishopsgate, EC2, 1.05.

Organ recital by Colin Harrison, Maxwell Hall, Salford University, 12.35.

Recital by The Holburne Group, St Vedast's, Foster Lane, EC2, 1.10.

Organ recital by Kemp English, Wesley's Chapel, City Road, EC1, 12.30.

Recital by Jonathan Tobutt (oboe) and David Dubery (piano), Acrication Library, St James's Street, 12.45.

Recital by Jane Goodwin (cello) and Richard Greenwood (piano), St Martin-in-the-Fields, 1.05.

Organ recital by Catherine Ennis, St Lawrence Jewry, EC2, 1.05.

Concert by Guildhall Jazz Band, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Barbican 7.

Organ recital by Dr. William Cole, The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, Savoy Hill, Strand, 6.30.

Talk, lectures Fashion 1920-1970, by Eileen Graham, 12; Seventeenth-century English portrait miniatures: The Art of the Miniaturist, 1.15; Victoria & Albert Museum.

Correcting Nature: Reynolds' discourses on art, by Malcolm Andrews, Goldsmiths' Theatre, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel St, WC1, 6.15.

Into the unconscious: Freud, by Dr. Nick Isbister, The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, St Peter's Church, Vere St, W1, 1.10.

Roman Britain, by Mr Stephen Bird, Attenborough Lecture Theatre 1, Leicester University, 5.15.

Foxes, by Joyce Pope, Natural History Museum, South Kensington, 3.

Nuclear physics, by Anthony Wilson, Science Museum, South Kensington, 1.

Beginnings and endings: De Gas, the Impressionists and unfinished paintings, by Colin Wiggins, The National Gallery, Trafalgar Sq, 1.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Local Government Rate Limitation Order and Local Government Reorganization Pension Order.

Lords (2.30): Shops Bill and Salmon Bill, third reading.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending February 15:

1. EastEnders (Thu/Sun) 23.70m
2. EastEnders (Tue/Sun) 23.40m
3. News (Tue) 18.30m
4. Noel Edwards Late Late Breakfast Show 16.20m
5. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 14.50m
6. H-D-H 13.75m
7. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 13.55m
8. Every Second Counts 13.00m
9. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 12.55m
10. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 12.40m

1. Wish You Were Here (Mon/Wed) 12.40m

2. Coronation Street (Mon) Granada 12.30m

3. Coronation Street (Wed) Granada 12.10m

4. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 15.10m

5. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 14.40m

6. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 14.20m

7. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 13.75m

8. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 13.55m

9. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 13.40m

10. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 13.25m

1. Yes Prime Minister 5.20m

2. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 5.00m

3. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 4.50m

4. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 4.40m

5. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 4.30m

6. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 4.20m

7. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 4.10m

8. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 4.00m

9. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 3.90m

10. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 3.80m

1. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 3.70m

2. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 3.60m

3. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 3.50m

4. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 3.40m

5. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 3.30m

6. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 3.20m

7. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 3.10m

8. The 100th Anniversary of the First World War 3.00m

Roads

The Midlands M5: Major widening continues SW of Bromsgrove and Birmingham SW of the A38 (junction 5/Droitwich); no access N at junction 5; contraflow with 50 mph speed limit. A41: Temporary traffic lights at Hatton, Warwick. A49: Three sections under repair between Ludlow and Shrewsbury.

Wales and West A48: Single line traffic on eastbound carriageway between Bcton Ferry and Baginbun. A48: Roadworks with temporary lights between Llandrillo and Nantycwys, Dyfed.

The North A1 (M): Southbound carriageway closed between Blyth and Wadworth, 3 Yards; contraflow on northbound carriageway. A66: Work N and S of Thorpe, Cheshire, in connection with Thorpe bypass. A612b: Severe delays at peak periods on the Leeds outer ring road at junction with Tongue Lane.

Scotland: Edinburgh: Temporary traffic lights at the junction with Fountainbridge Road and Grove Street; delays at peak hours. Resurfacing in Pinkie Road, Musselburgh. Lothian: Slight diversion signposted.

M73: Inside lanes of both carriageways closed between Maryville interchange (junction 1) and Ballieston interchange (junction 2).

6. Sun Rise 6.53 pm

6. Moon Rise 6.53 pm

6. Moon Set 6.53 pm

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Weather forecast

Pressure will remain high over Iceland and low S of Britain.

Gale to midnight

London, East Angles, Midlands, Wales, NW England, Isle of Man: Mostly dry, sunny periods, perhaps patchy freezing fog at first; wind E light, increasing moderate; max temp 4C (39F).

SE, central S England: Mostly dry, sunny periods; wind E moderate, increasing fresh; max temp 4C (39F).

Channel Islands, SW England: Some snow flurries later, drifting of lying snow; wind E fresh, locally light, increasing moderate; max temp 4C (39F).

Lake District, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Scattered sleet or snow showers; wind E light; max temp 5C (41F).

E, central N, NE England, Dover, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, Gairloch, Shetland: Sleet or snow showers; wind E light or moderate; max temp 4C (39F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Tuesday: snow showers, heavy in the N; remaining rain cold with severe frost overnight and patchy freezing fog in the N.

6. Sun Rise 6.53 pm

6. Moon Rise 6.53 pm

6. Moon Set 6.53 pm

6. Moon Set 6.53 pm

6. Moon Set 6.53 pm

6. Moon Set 6.53 pm

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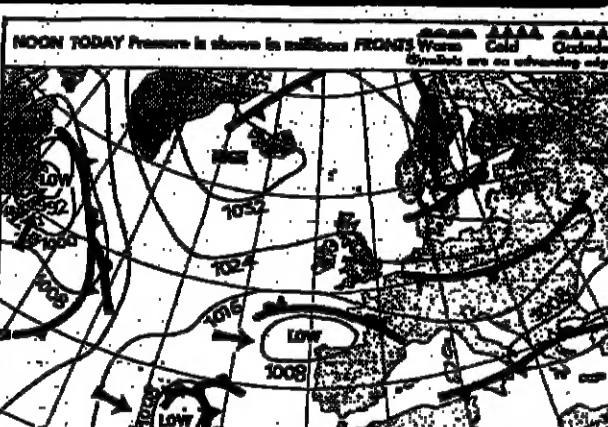
6. Moon Set 6.53 pm

6. Moon Set 6.53 pm

6. Moon Set 6.53 pm

6. Moon Set 6.53 pm

6. Moon Set 6.53 pm



High Tides

Location	AM	PM
London Bridge	2.19	7.1
Aberdeen	1.49	6.4
Belfast	1.49	6.4
Bristol	1.23	6.1
Cardiff	1.23	6.1
Dover	1.23	6.1
Edinburgh	1.23	6.1
Glasgow	1.23	6.1
Harwich	1.23	6.1
London	1.23	6.1
Manchester	1.23	6.1
Newcastle	1.23	6.1
Portsmouth	1.23	6.1